Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-96-133 *10 July 1996*

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: PA Plans To Open Office in East Jerusalem in 'Few Days'

TA0907181996 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jul 96

[Yoram Kohen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The members of the Palestinian Authority [PA] Legislative Council [LC] from the Jerusalem area will soon open an office in East Jerusalem that will allow them to provide services to the Palestinian residents of the city. The seven LC members rejected a city police request and did not report for a discussion to clarify the issue of their activities. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] [passage omitted] The police were not surprised by the LC members' decision not to show up for the talk but said that no felony is involved because the summons was not for questioning. Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani, who toured Hebron today, addressed the issue:

[Qahalani] The police are already and will go on doing everything to make sure that the PA carries out no activity in Jerusalem. We will prevent any such activity if carried out under the PA's patronage. Through this process, we sought to make our intention clear. That was the idea.

[Kohen] While the police are working to prevent PA activities in East Jerusalem, the LC members decided to open an office that will allow them, as they put it, to provide services for the Palestinian residents of the city.

[LC Member Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir, in Arabic] We were elected on the basis of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. We were elected in the Jerusalem constituency. It is our right to provide services to the citizens in Jerusalem. This cannot be done except by opening offices. Consequently, there is no law that can prevent us from opening offices in Jerusalem. We will open offices in the next few days.

[Kohen] 'Abd-al-Qadir warned that if the Netanyahu government implements its policy in East Jerusalem and closes Orient House, this might lead to an explosion. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: PNC Chairman Interviewed on Peace Process

TA0907175296 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 8 Jul 96 pp 16, 7

[Interview with PNC Chairman Salim al-Za'nun by 'Ali Khamis in Cairo "last week"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Khamis] In your view, will the new Israeli prime minister adhere to the Oslo agreements?

[Al-Za'nun] International law stipulates that if a government signs an agreement under international sponsorship and endorsement, the next government must adhere to it. Even Netanyahu has announced his commitment to these agreements. We have not heard Netanyahu refuse to negotiate with the Palestinians. At the recent meeting to which he sent two of his advisers, he expressed his desire to resume the negotiations with the Palestinians. He requested that President 'Arafat give him some time.

Netanyahu wants to slow down the negotiations process and find pretexts that will allow him not to implement and finish the march.

[Khamis] Till when will the siege on the Palestinians continue, and what is the situation of the prisoners in Israeli jails?

[Al-Za'nun] This is an old-new problem. We must not forget that during the past eight months, Peres froze the agreements and put them on hold. He did not release the prisoners despite the agreement that was reached. We need perseverance to confront this old-new problem. As for the siege, we have been promised that it will be lifted soon.

[Khamis] The United States insists on excluding the establishment of a Palestinian state. What are you doing about this?

[Al-Za'nun] We know that the United States played a role in the G-7 summit as the summit communique did not mention the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, whereas it was mentioned in the EC summit's statement. We, however, are free to determine how to rule ourselves, regardless of whether the United States agrees or disagrees. Moreover, when it tried to meddle between us and Jordan and create what could be called an alternative homeland in Jordan, we rejected that through the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. We said that the relationship between us and Jordan will be a confederation between two independent states after we obtain full independence and sovereignty and on the basis of the voluntary choice of the Jordanian and Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

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[Khamis] What cards are the Arabs holding to use to apply pressure in the negotiations on Jerusalem?

[Al-Za'nun] I would not say that we have cards that can be used to apply pressure, but the Arabs and Palestinians possess 100 times the number of documents and records Israel has and which affirm their rights in Jerusalem. Therefore, should there be negotiations sponsored by a party that is not biased in favor of one side, no one will be able to ignore our argument regarding Jerusalem.

If we were to say that the reference point of the Jerusalem issue is international legitimacy, then this legitimacy begins with the partition resolution which said that East and West Jerusalem have a special status and that Israel has no sovereignty over them. Therefore, the issue of Jerusalem must be discussed comprehensively.

I do not deny, however, that a disagreement arose after 1949, when the world recognized or agreed implicitly that Jordanian sovereignty be established over East Jerusalem and Israeli sovereignty over the western part. At worst, if the reality which differs from the partition resolution were to prevail, East Jerusalem should be restored to us in its entirety. If we go deeper, however, we have rights in West Jerusalem that cover 70 percent of its land. These are the properties of absentees which are under Palestinian ownership to date.

[Khamis] What if Netanyahu carries out his threat and renounces the Madrid decisions?

[Al-Za'nun] I cannot say that there is a retreat from the Madrid decisions, because those decisions were based on President Bush's initiative on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. If anyone wants to cancel Madrid, this does not cancel the resolution that was issued in 1967 — namely, Resolution 242. Furthermore, no one can cancel the resolution that was issued after the October war — namely, Resolution 338.

These resolutions were established as a precedent in Madrid. If Israel wants to back down, it has no choice but to concede our rights. If it wants to evade the agreements and return to the situation that prevailed before Madrid, that would be the Geneva peace conference which was held in 1973 after the October war on the basis of Resolution 338. This resolution stipulates the implementation of Resolution 242, which obligates Israel to withdraw from every inch of East Jerusalem.

[Khamis] What sort of peace is Netanyahu seeking without preconditions? Is he trying to confuse the Arab negotiator?

[Al-Za'nun] He wants to do so. Netanyahu believes that his party and Shamir were defeated in the elections that followed the Madrid Conference because they opposed a peaceful settlement. Therefore, when he planned his comeback, he exploited the fact that the prime minister was not Rabin but a wavering individual who made a number of mistakes. The most important of these was his failure to choose the right time to hold the elections. He should have set the elections at least one or two months after Rabin's death in order to exploit the sympathy and the Arab and international support for him shown at Rabin's grave side, but he wavered even in setting the election date. The Likud took revenge on the United States in particular and on the Labor Party. As Faysal al-Husayni has said, however, we must not get too excited about Netanyahu's statements because he is now acting in a clever manner. He is raising issues and giving himself two weeks in which to implement them. These are trial balloons intended to test whether the Palestinians will keep silent, whether the Arabs will abandon the Palestinians, whether Europe will remain quiet, and whether the United States, in view of the U.S. elections, will cave in just as Christopher did in his talks with Netanyahu.

True, we must not underestimate this matter, but we should not be alarmed. We must stand fast in our positions and take into account the fact that through the agreements that have been signed over the past three years, we have achieved something on the ground. Instead of living in Tunis and Cairo, the Palestinians now are present around Jerusalem and its neighborhoods and on 70 percent of the Gaza Strip and 30 percent of the West Bank.

We must protect these achievements during the next four years and should have a plan to force the Israeli side as best we can — on the Arab, international, and Palestinian levels — to complete the peace process and withdraw from the rest of the territories in accordance with Resolution 242.

[Khamis] What are the chances that the Palestinian intifadah will erupt once again?

[Al-Za'nun] What do you expect from the Palestinian people if all the doors are closed before them, if all means of livelihood are closed before them, if the closures and the siege continue, and if the peace process is halted in practice? If a people is subjected to such things, it has the right to resist and challenge in accordance with international charters. Hence, we hope that Israel's intransigence, the rabbis who have become a main power in the Knesset, and Netanyahu's government will not force the Palestinian people to return to a stronger and longer intifadah. [passage omitted]

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Palestinian Affairs: AL-QUDS — Netanyahu Visit Test of U.S. Commitment to Peace

TA0907170496 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Jul 96 p 13

[Editorial: "A Test of Washington's Seriousness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Undoubtedly, the results of the talks U.S. President Bill Clinton will hold with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the White House will be a real test of the United States' actual commitment to promoting the peace process and fulfilling the role of honest broker in the negotiations. The results will also be a real test of the new Israeli Government's commitment to the peace process that began in Madrid in accordance with agreed upon bases and principles. Consequently, they will be a test of Israel's readiness to adhere to the agreements that have been agreed on and to move forward in the negotiations process, whether on the Palestinian track or on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

It is, of course, clear that if these results are to be positive, the U.S. Administration, especially President Clinton, must allay the concerns and fears roused among all the parties interested in the advancement of the peace process after the Israeli Government, led by Netanyahu, presented a hard-line program. The least that can be said about this program is that it wiped out many of the foundations and principles on which the peace process was established. The goal cannot be achieved unless the United States reaffirms its commitment to advancing the peace process on the basis of the principle of land for peace and the other foundations and principles that were the basis for convening the Madrid Conference. Moreover, the United States should also reaffirm its commitment to implementing the agreements which it witnessed and signed in order to ensure their implementation.

Evidently, the United States is aware of the large margin for maneuver between the slogan "Security and peace" raised by the Israeli Government and a real adherence to the requirements and obligations necessary to advance the peace process as agreed upon by the international community and the parties participating in the negotiations, including Israel itself. This is because advancement in the peace process requires not only more than raising the slogan of peace but, primarily, dropping the Israeli Government's many noes, which in themselves are preconditions which this government is trying to impose on the Arab side.

The United States is also aware that in addition to these obstacles, the current reality is raising many fears about the grave consequences of the collapse of the peace process in light of the Israeli Government's clear retreat in honoring the commitments it signed, foremost of which are redeployment in Hebron and proceeding with the permanent solution talks, which include the issues of Jerusalem, refugees, borders, and settlements. Moreover, the current practices of the Israeli Government violate all these commitments and, thereby, fuel the tension and escalation.

Accordingly, the talks to be held in Washington will constitute an important indication about the future of the peace process. The time has now come for Washington, which called on the Arabs to wait, to demand from Netanyahu to clearly define his government's stance and clarify whether it is really interested in a just and comprehensive peace with the Arabs or will insist on adhering to its hard-line program. This program is a repeat of previous Israeli programs which proved to lead only to growing tension, violence, and hatred rather than the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace.

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Algeria

Algeria: 1 Killed, Several Injured by Bomb Explosion in Boufarik

LD0907162996 Paris Radio France International in French 1600 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria one person was killed and several were injured when a bomb exploded in Boufarik, 25 km south of Algiers.

Egypt

Egypt: Increased Security Around U.S., Israeli Embassies Reported

NC1007061596 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Fattah: "Security Reinforcements Around U.S., Israeli Embassies in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] European embassies have asked for security around their buildings in Cairo to be reinforced.

The Interior Ministry reinforced security around some embassies with highly qualified officers and soldiers following the al-Khubar incident in Saudi Arabia last week.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo has asked the Interior Ministry to reinforce security around the embassy and the residences of the ambassador and embassy staff.

The Israeli Embassy has asked for increased security around its building in al-Jizah and its office in al-Ma'adi.

The Interior Ministry has deployed armored vehicles at the entrances and exits of side streets around the embassies.

Egypt: Security Measures Augmented Around Israeli, U.S. Tourists

NC0907121396 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Interior Ministry's security services have adopted stringent security measures around tourist and historic sites, bridges, and hotels. The security services have received information that foreigners intend to blow up hotels in al-Jizah as well as places frequented by Israeli nationals.

The security services are currently surveying the movements of Israeli and U.S. tourists and are beefing up protection of key figures.

Egypt: Musa on Israeli Line on Peace, Egyptian Missile Issue

MM0907152696 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Jul 96 p 4

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shihab] The Israeli Government's program has been characterized by its refusal to withdraw from the Golan, negotiate over Jerusalem's future, or relinquish the settlements. Have you received any signals from Israeli officials indicating their backtracking on such stands?

[Musa] We have received or we understand that such stands are not final. But we should not leave everything to chance, hence the Egyptian and Arab diplomatic efforts to confront various possibilities in this connection.

[Shihab] You stressed at the Harford [as published] symposium in London that the final solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict is represented in the establishment of a Palestinian state. Do you believe that that can be achieved in the future?

[Musa] Without doubt the solution should be through the establishment of a Palestinian state. There is nothing to prevent that, except maybe Israel's desire not to achieve that. But the Palestinian people are determined to establish their own state, and Egypt and Egyptian diplomacy will not cease to support the Palestinian people in their just, necessary, and strategic demand. I have no doubt about that, because no Arab citizen will consider that a full peace has been established until a Palestinian state is established. That is a necessary condition.

[Shihab] What about Jerusalem's future in the negotiation process?

[Musa] Jerusalem should be included in the negotiations. Israel's resolution that it is its eternal capital concerns the Israelis alone and should not stop us from working to recover east Jerusalem. As for the final shape of the city, it can be negotiated. We will wait to know the outcome.

[Shihab] It has been reported recently that Binyamin Netanyahu's government has asked the U.S. Jewish lobby to put pressure on the U.S. Administration to get it to pursue a hard-line policy toward Egypt because of the latter's policy. Is there anything to confirm this?

[Musa] We do not believe that that is the case. We do not think the way Israel thinks, because pressure on us will lead nowhere. In any case, we have sensed no pressure at all.

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[Shihab] Does the U.S. press furor over the Egyptian missiles issue fall within this context?

[Musa] Maybe. But my response is that that is a failed attempt to put pressure on Egypt. If the Israelis want to discuss the missiles issue, we are willing to do so, but along with all the other files concerning missiles and weapons in the Middle East as a whole, including Israel. And we will insist that the matter be public.

[Shihab] How do you view the Israeli Government's criticisms of the Cairo summit resolutions?

[Musa] We had hoped that Tel Aviv would issue a statement announcing the Netanyahu government's adherence to the peace process as a strategic option as announced by Arab leaders. Such criticisms do not secure favorable conditions for negotiations or a real peace, since a real peace is an Arab-Israeli peace, not an Israeli peace.

[Shihab] Former Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said that it is necessary to have a powerful Israel in the region in order to ensure the peace process' success. What is your opinion?

[Musa] It is wrong to talk about peace and power at the same time. Israel should either believe in peace and comply with subsequent results or abandon it. I do not believe that the new government in Israel can violate the wishes of the international community, which has devoted unprecedented care and interest to the peace process in the Middle East. Israel has the opportunity to exist in the region as a part of it, not as its leader. This opportunity will not be available until Israel recognizes others' rights to their land, to self-determination, and to establish their own independent state, in addition to withdrawing from the Golan and southern Lebanon. If Israeli officials think for one single moment that they can win the negotiations by wasting time and building more settlements, this is erroneous, unacceptable, and is bound to have adverse effects.

[Shihab] What measures will Arab leaders take if Israel insists on its policy, which was revealed through its program after the elections?

[Musa] The Arab summit made clear statements, and I do not believe that the new Israeli prime minister will ignore the international desire to continue and to make the peace process a success, because the consequences of that are numerous. Besides, peace is in Israel's interests as much as in the interests of neighboring states.

[Shihab] There is talk of a tripartite summit in Damascus involving President Mubarak, King Husayn, and President al-Asad. Has a date been set?

[Musa] There is no summit. That is mere speculation. If there is a need for a summit, arrangements will be made.

Egypt: Musa Returns From African Summit, Comments

NC1007064096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2128 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Yaounde tonight after representing President Mubarak at the head of Egypt's delegation to the 32d African summit in the Cameroonian capital.

In an arrival statement Musa said he will submit a detailed report to President Mubarak on the summit and the results of his contacts with African leaders on the sidelines of the summit.

Musa said the African summit's consensus on the need for Dr. Butrus-Ghali to run for a second term as UN secretary general is considered to be a success for Egypt and all Africa. He said that this decision supports an African candidate who is head of the world body. He stressed that this consensus shows that Africa sticks by its candidate, asserting his capability and competence.

Asked about an Egyptian proposal to the summit on the need not to hurry to sign an agreement banning the proliferation of chemical weapons, Musa said: There was a proposal providing for all the African countries to sign the agreement banning the proliferation of chemical weapons. I explained the situation because the issue is more complicated than a simple call. He stressed the need to study this issue very carefully.

Asked about Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's statement before leaving for Washington, Musa said: We will wait until we meet the Israeli prime minister to see what he has to say.

Egypt: Commentary Proposes Topics for Clinton, Netanyahu Meeting

NC0907155196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Jul 96

[Commentary by Mamduh Isma'il: "The United States is Capable of Rectifying the Course of the Political Statement of Netanyahu's Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Before we get into the details of the visit Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is paying to Washington and what the agenda of his meeting with President Clinton should include, we must go back in time, specifically to the period before the peace conference in Madrid in October 1991.

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The Cold War between the two major poles, the United States and the former Soviet Union, ended and the features of a new world order that sought to spread peace in the world and establish the approach of negotiations and understanding instead of war and violence, particularly after the second Gulf war, began to emerge.

In that international climate the United States embarked on leading that order and imposing it, relying on its military and economic capabilities. The beginning was bringing together the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict at the negotiating table in Madrid. Washington became the sponsor of the peaceful process in a region that affects the interests of all the political and economic powers in the world.

Recalling this, we wanted to refresh the memory before U.S. President Bill Clinton meets the Israeli prime minister. We also wanted to reiterate that the Madrid conference was the starting point in the region to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on all the tracks. Important, though limited accomplishments have been made in the past five years. We are referring to those on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. But the more important thing that guaranteed and still guarantees the success of the peaceful process was the principles accepted by the Arab parties and Israel and supported by the international community, primarily the United States. Without these principles, negotiations could not have started in the first place. Of these principles we cite the land-for-peace principle that is based on the UN Security Council resolutions and international law; the admission that peace cannot be achieved in the region unless it involves all the fronts; the recognition that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria and unless the Palestinian issue is resolved; and the fact that the fate of the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem should be determined through negotiations.

When the U.S. President meets the Israeli prime minister in Washington today and regardless of the nature of ties between the two, these principles must be the third party to this meeting, particularly since Arab countries and others are fully convinced that the United States is capable under any circumstance to curb the extremism of the Israeli political stances. Since we are talking about the American influence on Israel, we would like to remind the U.S. Administration of the $10-billion loan Washington granted Israel in return for halting the building of settlements in the occupied Arab and Palestinian land. This is what President Clinton should raise with Netanyahu during their meeting.

We know that the U.S. presidential elections involve political calculations. But in the critical stage the Middle East is going through and in light of the Israeli prime minister's remarks that put the peace process in a serious predicament, logic and care to preserve the interests of all the regional and international parties require the U.S. Administration to adjust the course of the Israeli prime minister's political line and convince him that peace and security cannot be achieved by the continuing occupation of Arab land and that going back on peace commitments will revive the stagnant ponds of political extremism, turning them into an instrument of blind violence and destruction that blight the fruits of peace. Mubarak reiterated this in his important interview with the French newspaper LE FIGARO. Judging by long experience in dealing with all the parties and his perceptive understanding of developments, President Mubarak reiterated that the consequences can be fearful if Israel fails to honor its commitments. He also said that the possible failure of the peace process can revive terrorist operations in the region.

Egypt: Daily Questions U.S. Bid To Deny Butrus-Ghali 2d Term

NC1007063196 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2121 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH says the United States has failed to offer logical justifications for its refusal to allow UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali to run for a second term, especially as it knows that the cost of peacekeeping missions places has been undertaken by the United Nations and that Dr. Butrus-Ghali has made real achievements. In its editorial tomorrow AL-JUMHURIYAH says the only justifications left for the United States are Butrus-Ghali's courage and adherence to the truth in publishing the report on the Qana massacre, committed by the Israeli forces against Lebanese civilians. The paper says that perhaps Washington wanted Butrus-Ghali to be content with the role of a "silent devil" in this massacre. Perhaps it wanted, rather, preferred, the champion of the massacre, Shim'on Peres, to run for the post of UN secretary general. AL-JUMHURIYAH notes the declaration of the African leaders at their summit supporting Dr. Butrus-Ghali for a second term. The paper says that Europe, Russia, and Latin America support him, adding that Africa has the right to have its candidate run for the post of UN secretary general, like his predecessors. Concluding its editorial, the paper asserts that Egypt will not disappoint Butrus-Ghali, one of its sons who proved his gift and diplomatic capability in piloting the largest world body in the 20th century.

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Sudan

Sudan: 'Hundreds' of Students Demonstrate Against Government

NC0907170096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 9 Jul (MENA)—Hundreds of students in the Sudanese al-Nilayn University, formerly the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, held demonstrations in the streets of the Sudanese capital this afternoon, shouting hostile slogans against the government.

The demonstrations broke out inside the campus in the wake of a political seminar organized by the opposition National Democratic Grouping. Speakers at the seminar denounced the government's economic policies and criticized the announced increase in electricity and petroleum products prices.

Students at al-Nilayn University staged demonstrations on the campus yesterday and tried to leave the university. But the riot police prevented them.

No information is available on injuries among the students taking part in today's demonstrations.

Sudan: Minister Reports Security Dialogue With Egypt

NC0907171896 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Jul 96 p 3

[Report on interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha by Rabi' Shahin; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha has disclosed that Cairo and Khartoum have been engaging in security cooperation and carrying on a dialogue for the past few months. He noted that in line with this dialogue Sudan has tried to be responsive to the information given to its agencies by their Egyptian counterparts concerning certain suspects in certain cases. He confirmed that all the suspects found on the Egyptian security lists have left Sudan. Taha said that he had met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa three times since the assassination attempt against President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa and had discussed all aspects of this issue and the furor surrounding it and various other bilateral and pan-Arab subjects.

The Sudanese foreign minister revealed that Khartoum had received positive signs and this made it possible for President 'Umar al-Bashir to attend the Cairo Arab summit.

He also said that the Saudi multimillionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin is still in Afghanistan and noted that he is in possession of information that proves this.

Taha added: Bin-Ladin and other persons were expelled from Sudan to thwart the numerous pretexts raised about him and other people who it was claimed were residing in Sudan and posing a threat to some countries' security.

He denied any progress toward turning over a new leaf in Sudanese-U.S. relations, saying that thinking about this would be too optimistic. He disclosed, however, that there is a dialogue between Washington and Khartoum about some contentious issues and the objections that the U.S. Administration is making about them.

He noted: This dialogue has not reached the point of agreement.

Taha declared that Sudan has received no indications that the West, particularly the United States and Britain, are backing down in their schemes and designs against Sudan or their plans to besiege it and let the south secede. He noted, however, that his country is making moves to begin a new chapter of relations with Kuwait and that this reflects an official Sudanese wish. He acknowledged that wounds had been left by the 1990 incidents but said that failure to move on and bypass these incidents will prevent the concerned parties from working for their future and will invite bigger catastrophes in the future.

[Shahin] Did Sudan come to the summit with particular ideas about how to settle its old and new problems with Egypt, particularly as the summit constitutes the first leadership-level meeting between the two countries after the Addis Ababa incident?

[Taha] Sudan came to Cairo with a position based on the firm principles of collective Arab action, including respect for each Arab country's sovereignty and domestic security, promoting bilateral cooperation, and seeking to solve problems through dialogue and without political and military tensions. In line with these principles, Sudan has from the beginning tried to solve the crisis in such a spirit, primarily by containing it and not allowing disagreements to overshadow the long-standing mutual interests of the two countries. Sudan has taken many security measures since the entry visa system was reintroduced and has examined the cases of Egyptian nationals residing on its territory. Now Sudan is willing to exchange security information with the concerned Egyptian agencies. Something like this has already been done. We believe that the current circumstances of the Arab nation, particularly Egypt and Sudan, makes it necessary to handle all disagreements wisely and frankly.

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We must place mutual interests above any disagreements.

[Shahin] Can we understand that the security measures that Sudan adopted were coordinated with Egypt or that Egypt has approved of them?

[Taha] Doubtlessly they came after a long dialogue between the two countries and their concerned departments. During the dialogue we tried to benefit from all the information supplied by Egypt to our security agencies. We can say that right now there is no person in Sudan whose name is on the Egyptian security lists.

[Shahin] The problem of Mustafa Hamzah, who is wanted by Egypt, remains unsolved, in addition to the suspects wanted in connection with the attempt on President Mubarak's life. Egypt says these persons are residing in Sudan. What do you say?

[Taha] From the start the investigations made by the Sudanese security agencies showed that these persons were not in Sudan. They could have at some former time passed briefly through Sudanese territory but this was not shown by our investigations. As for Mustafa Hamzah, we are certain and the world also is certain that he is in Afghanistan. This confirms an earlier announcement we had made and is corroborated by the international media and official Afghan sources. As for the second suspect, Mustafa Hamzah has announced that he is found in a third country, which is neither Afghanistan nor Britain. We are doing our utmost to find the whereabouts of this suspect and welcome any cooperation by any security agency or other countries to know where he is now. As for the third suspect, information supplied by Ethiopia proves that his identity is unknown nor is a description of his appearance available. In line with Ethiopian announcements, the identity of this third suspect must be extracted from Mustafa Hamzah and the second suspect. We note here that Mustafa Hamzah has stated that there is no third suspect. This demonstrates the feebleness of the statements issued by Ethiopia on the case.

[Shahin] The Egyptian-Sudanese dispute constitutes one of the difficult problems facing the Arab world and the reconciliation drive. How can a call for reconciliation and unity be made in the presence of these disputes, particularly the Egyptian-Sudanese; and, do you expect the summit to succeed in eliminating these disagreements?

[Taha] The set of bilateral disputes is undoubtedly one of the axes around which deliberations in this summit revolve. The slogan President Husni Mubarak raised when he prepared for this summit was overcoming bilateral disputes. The common goal is undoubtedly the right approach to an expanded dialogue among the foreign ministers. It is natural for the treatment of bilateral disputes to be one of the mechanisms of collective Arab action, since it is illogical for the summit to make a collective effective decision that carries weight unless this decision is supported by a united will. However, it is inconceivable to overcome all inter-Arab disputes in one session. But reaching accord on this spirit and this determination to treat the problems is the guarantee for curbing the impact these disputes can have on joint Arab action.

[Shahin] Were you optimistic about the summit's success or the future of joint Arab action; and, what is your impression after taking part in two ministerial meetings that prepared for it?

[Taha] First of all, and regardless of my optimism or pessimism, the convocation of this summit after six years was a practical step. The second thing is that the all-embracing meeting is not for the sake of appearances. There were objective developments represented in the new Israeli position that implied some departure from or evasion of what was reached earlier in the peace agreements. All this is bound to prompt the Arab countries or nation to seek courses of collective action to defend pan-Arab security and vital interests.

[Shahin] Kuwait is asking the states that backed Iraq to go back on their position or to apologize and declare that they were wrong. What do you say?

[Taha] Sudan has repeatedly declared its position on events in 1990. It stated that what happened was an aggression that should be checked. The disagreement involved the mechanism of rectifying the situation, checking the aggression, and the suitable timing for that. Anyway, we have repeatedly declared a sincere desire to settle all the disagreements and restore normalcy to our relations with Kuwait on the basis of mutual respect and guaranteeing each country's safety, independence, and sovereignty on its land and political borders. Hence, the matter is left to Kuwait.

[Shahin] Do we understand from this that Sudan is inclined to rectify its relations with Kuwait?

[Taha] Yes, this is our disposition and official stance. These signals express Sudan's official position.

[Shahin] Rumors sometimes claim that Saudi billionaire Usamah Bin-Ladin is in Afghanistan or London. At other times, it is rumored that he is still in Sudan. What is the implication of your decision to expel him; and, did you make that decision after obtaining information that he caused disturbances or problems for you?

[Taha] Usamah Bin-Ladin has definitely headed for Afghanistan. My information indicates that he is still

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there. But Sudan has nothing to do with his program after leaving. His departure was in the context of refuting allegations that Sudan was harboring elements that constitute a security threat to some fraternal states. His stay in Sudan was contingent on his refraining from any hostile activity against any state. This is part of our laws and policies and international humanitarian laws. I repeat that there is no longer any relation between Usamah Bin-Ladin and Sudan since he left our land.

[Shahin] Does his expulsion mean that the Sudanese authorities have obtained new information and documents?

[Taha] His expulsion was in the framework of refuting allegations. I said that he did not leave because he broke any laws or regulations. Neither was he implicated in any crime. His expulsion was decided out of carefulness to give priority to Sudan's relations with Arab brothers over all other considerations concerning the stay of any individual, even if this stay was in the framework of the law and international humanitarian laws.

[Shahin] There are reports that the U.S. and British policies are inclined to normalize relations with Sudan. Does this indicate that the West is going back on its scheme to separate south Sudan?

[Taha] There is certainly no such inclination. This is overoptimism. There is no U.S. or British inclination to open a new chapter in relations. But there is a dialogue with the United States on the disputed issues and the U.S. criticism of the Sudanese policy. But the matter has not reached an agreement. There is a bilateral dialogue and many points have actually been covered. But we have no indication that the West is going back on its scheme against Sudan or its efforts to impose an embargo on it. We hope we will reach an agreement and shed more light on the actual situation in Sudan to make the West review its policies and attitudes toward us.

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Editorial—Ruling Tribe Pushing People to Confrontation

JN1007101596 (Internet) Voice of Bahrain WWW in English 10 Jul 96

[Editorial: "Political Murders Replace Dialogue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The serious escalation in the Bahraini crisis has made a reconciliation between the people of Bahrain and the Al Khalifah ruling tribe even more difficult. Whether the crisis has reached the point of no-return or not is a matter for debate, but what is clear is that the Al Khalifah are pushing the people to an eventual confrontation the opposition has so far refrained from declaring. It has always been hoped that the friends of the Al Khalifah, both in the Gulf and outside, would pursue the aim of reaching a settlement rather than leaving it to take its dangerous course, but, so far, none of these friends has shown the courage needed to take up a strong stand and tell the ruling tribe to call off its onslaught on the people. Instead, they have unwittingly encouraged the Al Khalifah in their outrageous attack on liberties, human rights and dignity of the people of Bahrain. Money has been poured into the pockets of the rulers to enable them to enhance their capabilities to recruit more torturers, media advisors, public relations companies and professional killers. It is doubtful whether these measures can lead to stability especially in the face of a determined people whose main aim is to reinstate the constitution of the country.

Having failed to dislodge the constitutional movement in the eighteen months of the uprising, the Al Khalifah have now adopted a policy to "break the bones" of the opposition. Last month, a group of young men were paraded on TV screens to confess their role in a clandestine plot to overthrow the government. They were allegedly helped by Iran, and had a grand design in Bahrain. The minister of Information had planned a major festival and invited many journalists to report the great event of uncovering the coup plot. In the end what transpired from the propaganda scoop was a collection of uncorroborated confessions, which had clearly been prepared in advance and which eight young men were required to read out in front of cameras. The Al Khalifah sought to exploit the negative image attached to the Shia Muslim community and introduced the terms Hizballah and Iran in its attempt to curtail the activities of the people. In the event, none of theses plans worked, and the world opinion has been steadfast in its support of the legitimate demands of the people of Bahrain. The support has been so widespread that even those amongst the journalists who accepted the invitation of the information minister, reported objectively and considered the episode of the plot nothing more than a hick-up. Reports in international media virtually ignored the Al Khalifah's allegation and repeated the constitutional demands, to the annoyance of Muhammad al-Mutawwa', the minister of information.

As the government festival faltered, the Al Khalifah became more agitated. Only a handful of governments did send qualified messages of support. The Amir had to intervene personally and write to other heads of government urging them to send messages of support. Inside the Gulf, the only letters of support came from Shaykh Zayid of the United Arab Emirates and the Saudis. The Kuwaiti parliament sent a letter of support for the people more than the government. The American president sent a letter of qualified support. The Al Khalifah regime published those parts of it which support them while ignoring a 15-word sentence which apparently urged the Amir to initiate dialogue with the opposition. The official spokesman of the American Embassy in Bahrain issued a statement to the Gulf News Agency expressing annoyance at this selective approach by the Al Khalifah, and said that they always preferred the presidential letters to be translated in full. Several observers remarked that if the Bahraini authorities were ready to distort Clinton's letter wouldn't they do the same with the confessions of the detainees who are under the most horrific torture? Many journalists observed the discrepancies in the testimonies of the alleged members of Hizballah, pointing to serious flaws in dates, times, names, events. Apparently, the play had not been well-prepared.

The mute international reaction to that episode may have pushed the Al Khalifah to the brink of insanity. They have just passed death sentences (1 July) against three innocent young Bahrainis falsely accused of starting a fire that led to the death of seven Bangladeshis. Four of the seven bodies of the victims were buried in secret and were not handed to the Embassy of Bangladesh. There were protests from the Embassy but the Al Khalifahs, with the help of a friendly country managed to silence these protests for undisclosed sums of cash. In this dirty war, the clean people of Bahrain are always the victims. If the three innocent Bahrainis are executed, there will be an outcry that could destabilise the whole region. The opposition is attempting in vain to tame the people who are being provoked by the foreign-staffed riot and security police and are being harassed beyond imagination. The Al Khalifah are brandishing their blood-stained swords against the constitutionalists. There seems to be little room to compromise the modest demands of the people, and it is left to those who have interests in the stability of the region to express their support to these demands and condemn the medieval

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practices of the ruling tribe. It appears that a showdown between the people and the government is becoming inevitable especially if the government carries out the death sentences against the innocent people. It is in everyone's interest to stop these murders, and there is still some time to act. Failure to take a humane stand may lead to catastrophe. It is a race between the evil of tribalism and those seeking to establish the rule of constitutional law. They must be supported.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Defense Minister—Government To Purchase British Missiles

LD0907153996 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1428 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 9 Jul (KUNA) — Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud today reaffirmed the Defense Ministry's intention to rebuild the Kuwaiti Armed Forces and equip them with the best advanced weapons that would meet their real needs on the strength of the reports prepared by the ministry's specialized technical committees.

Shaykh al-Hamud made these statements when he was answering questions by some members of the National Assembly in today's session chaired by Speaker Ahmad Sa'dun and his deputy Salih Fadalah on the Defense Ministry's preference for British sea missiles over similar French missiles to arm the Kuwaiti Navy.

Shaykh al-Hamud said that the ministry had decided to go ahead with the purchase of the British missiles on the strength of studies and meetings by the technical committees affiliated to the navy and the Defense Ministry.

The minister denied statements made by some MPs [members of parliament] that the ministry did not take into account the opinion of the technical committees or that these committees had conclusively recommended the purchase of French missiles because of their superiority over the British missiles in terms of advantages and cost.

Shaykh al-Hamud said that the British missiles were used by numerous states for their naval fleets and that they had been successfully tested during the war for the liberation of Kuwait, whereas the French missiles were used by the French Navy only last year.

Kuwait: Assembly To Refer British Missile Deal to Commission

LD0907195996 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Assembly held its ordinary session this morning. Deputy Speaker Salih Yusuf al-Fadalah and Speaker of the Assembly Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun chaired the meeting.

The National Assembly approved referring the request made by some members of the Assembly to submit the issue of the arms deal concerning the Chinese gun and that concerning the British missile Sea Skua for the Kuwaiti naval forces to the commission for the protection of public funds.

The National Assembly also approved the bill submitted by some members of the assembly to disclose the commissions given in deals signed by the state and to submit the proposal to the government. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Qatar: France's Chirac News Conference Reported

JN0907150796 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 2100 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, led those who saw off His Excellency Jacques Chirac, president of the friendly French Republic, and his accompanying delegation upon their departure from Doha International Airport at 1845 yesterday evening, Monday, after an official visit of several hours to the country.

His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy prime minister and interior minister; ministers, the president and vice president of the Consultative Council; under secretaries; 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khulayfi, Qatari ambasador to France, and the French ambassador to Qatar were also present to bid farewell to the French president.

His highness, the beloved amir, accompanied his guest from the amir's office in an official motorcade which arrived at Doha International where an official send-off was accorded to his excellency. After his excellency had shaken hands with senior officials, his highness, the beloved amir, accompanied him to the honor dais. The French and Qatari national anthems were played and the two leaders reviewed the honor guard. The beloved amir then shook hands with the members of the official delegation accompanying His Excellency President Chirac. His highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani

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also shook hands with President Chirac and the members of the delegation accompanying him. After this, his highness the amir bade farewell to His Excellency the French president, wishing him a safe journey.

A round of official talks was held at the amir's office at 1600 yesterday afternoon, Monday between the Qatari delegation led by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, and the French delegation led by His Excellency President Jacques Chirac. On the Qatari side, the session of talks was attended by his Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister; Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, minister of state for defense affairs and deputy commander in chief of the Armed forces; 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah al-'Atiyah, head of the Amir's Office; 'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, minister of energy and industry; and 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Muhammad al-Khulayfi, Qatari ambassador to France. On the French side, the talks were attended by His Excellency Charles Millon, minister of state for defense; Herve de Charette, minister of foreign Affairs; Jean-Louis Debre, minister of interior; (Fran Bertrand), minister of industry, posts, and telecommunication [title as heard]; and the French ambassador to Qatar.

At the beginning of the talks, his highness the amir welcomed French President Jacques Chirac and the accompanying delegation, expressing his appreciation of the level of the strong relations of friendship between the two countries. His highness also expressed Qatar's appreciation of the positive French external policy vis-a-vis the Arab issues, particularly the Middle East peace process.

His Excellency the French president thanked his highness the amir for the warm reception he and the accompanying delegation were accorded. He said he hopes this visit will enhance bilateral relations in service of the two countries.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the discussion during the meeting dealt with the appropriate means to promote bilateral relations and expand cooperation and coordination in the political, military, security, economic, and youth sector. Viewpoints were exchanged on issues of mutual interest and on how to coordinate stands on them in international fora.

His Excellency President Chirac explained during the session of talks the positive stand of the G-7 summit which recently convened in Lyon in France on the peace process in the region. The two sides reviewed the current situation on the regional and international level, and emphasized the importance of security and stability in the Middle East and the resumption of the peace process on all tracks in a manner that will safeguard the rights of all parties and people which are involved in this peace process.

His Excellency French President Jacques Chirac described his talks with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, during the short visit he paid to the State of Qatar yesterday as very cordial in view of the unique long-standing relations binding the two fraternal countries.

At a news conference at the end of his visit to the State of Qatar yesterday evening, Monday, his excellency said that the discussion dealt with foreign political issues and issues of interest to the region, particularly the peace process, not to mention economic relations, particularly those dealing with oil and gas in the future. He said that the discussion also dealt with military cooperation between the two countries and ways to promote it. He said that the talks also dealt with cultural issues between France and Qatar, in particular and between France and the Arab world, in general. This was reflected in the reinvigoration of the Arab World Studies Institute in Paris and the organization of a cultural day to be held in Doha and Paris to exchange all that has to do with the cultural field.

Concerning His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani's visit to France, his excellency said that he extended an invitation to his highness who accepted the invitation. However, its date has not yet been set.

On Gulf security, his excellency the French president said that this security is the responsibility of the Gulf countries and people.

Regarding statements that Gulf security is a U.S. responsibility, his excellency the French President said: I do not believe such a statement was made in this form. Concerning U.S. policy in the Gulf, he said that it is up to every nation to establish close ties with the United States or Europe within the context of its international diplomacy. This also applies to the Americans. This is natural and even desired. On the political, economic, and cultural partnership between France and the Gulf states, the French president said that this partnership depends on the countries in the region. He suggested that such a parternship be established between France and all the Gulf countries. He described the relations between Europe, particularly France, and the Arab world as very close and age-old relations. He pointed out that these relations suffered a setback during the war between Israel and the Palestinians. But, now that peace prospects loom on the horizon, it is hoped that all would work to settle outstanding problems. He also said that French-Qatari relations could play a role

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in returning Iraq to the international fold and easing tensions.

In reply to a question on Iran, he said that Europe has adopted a stand that is not far from Qatar's stand. This stand is to pursue a necessary dialogue with Iran, and, consequently, refusing to isolate it.

He recalled French policy on the latest incidents in Lebanon by saying that this policy has achieved results through dialogue. He added that the State of Qatar has had a similar dialogue with Iran.

On Iraq, he said that France supported the alleviation of the Iraqi people's current tribulation through UN Security Council Resolution 986.

Concerning the French stand toward the Middle East peace, the French president said he believes the European stand at the Florence summit and at the G-7 summit in Lyon clearly shows that the European countries, Russia, and the United States are determined to encourage the peace process on the basis of the agreements that were concluded in Oslo and Taba.

On the new Israeli Government's policy on the peace process, he said: We must not pass premature judgments before actually getting to know Israel's position.

In reply to a question on the competition between France and the United States in the Gulf region, particularly with respect to arms provision, the French president played down the importance of the issue by saying that the international hotbeds of tension are now less acute and less violent. He explained that this does not prevent competition in exporting weapons as this is viewed as a normal commercial activity that should not be overly emphasized.

Regarding France's stand on Lebanon, President Chirac said he hopes the Lebanese would shoulder their responsibilities by themselves.

On French-Algerian relations, he said he hopes these good relations which are age-old relations will continue.

On renewing UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali's mandate, President Chirac said that this depends on Dr. Butrus-Ghali himself. He said that France appreciates and admires him and his activities.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Saudi, Syrian Ministers on Peace, Terrorism

JN0907164896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh—Meetings of the Joint Higher Syrian-Saudi Committee began under Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the Conferences Palace in Riyadh this afternoon. [passage omitted]

At the outset, His Highness Prince al-Faysal welcomed al-Shar' and the Syrian delegation and wished them a good stay. He said: We are confident that the convening of the joint committee will be a good opportunity to resume and continue cooperation, consultations, and coordination on various issues of interest to our fraternal peoples and our Arab and Islamic nation in a way that will secure the achievement of our common interests. This is in line with the policy adopted by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and President Hafiz al-Asad in expression of the convergence of their political will regarding the serious work to achieve good for our two peoples and our glorious Arab nation.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal added: We are meeting today at a time when our Arab region is facing serious challenges threatening the Middle East peace process which stemmed from the Madrid conference in implementation of the bases of the resolutions of international legitimacy. The Arab summit recently held in Cairo stressed the Arab states' consensus about the commitment to achieving a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic objective and option which will be realized under international legitimacy. Such peace requires a reciprocal Israeli commitment which should be emphasized seriously and without maneuvering in a way that secures Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem; enables the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital; and achieves Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights to the 4 June 19967 line and from southern Lebanon in implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal pointed out that achieving a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East is the real guarantee for providing balanced and equitable security for all states in the region. On this basis, negotiations should resume on all tracks without delay, and Israel should not undermine the bases of the peace process.

His Highness Prince al-Faysal added: Our countries' stand against terrorism is dictated by the tolerant Islamic law and our noble Arab values. This was emphasized by the Arab nation's leaders at their summit in Cairo. They considered terrorism as a world phenomenon which is

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alien to our community and values, and which draws our vehement condemnation of all acts of terrorism in their various forms.

Concluding his speech, His Highness Prince al-Faysal said: The meeting of our committee in its third session will give us the opportunity to assess what was accomplished through this committee in the various fields of political, economic, trade, technical, cultural, scientific, and media cooperation. This meeting will also give us an opportunity to discuss ways and means to consolidate the ties and links between our two sisterly peoples.

Al-Shar' also delivered a speech. He thanked His Highness Prince al-Faysal for his words of welcome and amity. He stressed the joint eagerness to champion the march of cooperation between the two sisterly countries, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Shar' said: I take this opportunity to recall the importance of the joint efforts made by our three countries; namely, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, at the recent Damascus summit. The positive effects of these efforts were reflected on joint Arab action and on rebuilding Arab solidarity as part of the commitment to the provisions of the Arab League Charter and other Arab charters in a way that achieves joint Arab security.

The foreign minister said: Within this context, we can only renew our strong condemnation and denunciation of the terrorist action that took place in Saudi Arabia recently, and our unequivocal rejection of anything that harms the security and stability of the kingdom and its fraternal people, emphasizing our full solidarity with Saudi Arabia.

Al-Shar' said: The Arab countries emphasized at the Cairo summit their firm and principled position on the requirements of peace and unanimously renewed commitment to the principles on which the peace process was launched at the Madrid conference, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy, including Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425, and the land-for-peace principle, which require Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines and from southern Lebanon, as well as Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and securing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Shar' said: This clear and unified Arab position is identical with the international positions that were emphasized at the European Union and the industrialized nations summits, and was emphasized before that by the Islamic and nonaligned summits.

He said: What we see at present is a comprehensive international consensus that supports the Arab peace position. Contrary to this, the new Israeli Government did not miss an opportunity to emphasize its defiance of the will of the international community and its disregard for the principles of the peace process and its embracing of extremist policies that, if they continue, will close the door for good in the face of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Al-Shar' added: It is a mistake to believe that the Arabs will accept, under any political circumstances, the fait accompli and cede any part of their occupied territories and usurped rights. This Israeli policy will not be successful whatever methods it uses to twist concepts and facts, because the world today is more aware of the party which is really with peace as a strategic option and the party that advocates policies of expansion and building settlements and that continues the occupation of others' land by force. These policies, in fact, constitute the harshest forms of terrorism.

Al-Shar' concluded by saying: Our meeting today is an opportunity to enhance our joint cooperation in all fields and to work seriously to remove the obstacles that obstruct the progress of that cooperation, based on our commitment to develop this cooperation according to a clear vision that aims at realizing the higher interests of our two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Syria's al-Shar' Assails Israel's 'Extremist' Policy

LD0907215496 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 9 Jul — The proceedings of the sixth ministerial meeting of the Joint Saudi-Syrian Committee for Bilateral Cooperation got under way at the Conference Hall in Riyadh today. The Saudi side was led by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Faysal, the foreign minister, and the Syrian side was led by His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', the foreign minister.

The committee includes, on the Saudi side, Dr. Ibrahim Assaf, minister of finance and national economy, Muhammad Ma'mun Kurdi, Foreign Ministry undersecretary for cultural and economic affairs, and on the Syrian side, His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and His Excellency Dr. Khalid Mahayini, minister of finance.

At the start of the opening session, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Faysal made a speech in which he welcomed the head and the members of the Syrian delegation. His highness said:

It is my pleasure to welcome you all, in my own name and on behalf of my colleagues the members of the

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Saudi delegation, in your second country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

I am confident that the meeting of the joint committee will be a suitable occasion to continue and follow up cooperation, consultation, and coordination on all matters and issues which concern our two fraternal peoples and our Arab and Islamic nation with a view to achieving our mutual interests. [passage omitted]

Excellencies and brothers:

We are meeting today at a time when our Arab region is facing serious challenges which are threatening the Middle East peace process which started with the Madrid Conference, in implementation of the rules and resolutions of international legitimacy. The Arab summit, held recently in Cairo, confirmed the consensus of the Arab states to commit themselves to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic objective and choice to be realized under the aegis of international legitimacy. This requires a reciprocal commitment which Israel should state seriously and unequivocally. This commitment should guarantee Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and should enable the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital. It should also guarantee Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 line and a full and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the western al-Biqa' to the internationally-recognized borders, in implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 475 and the land-for-peace principle.

This stand is based on the fact that the achievement of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East is the real guarantee which will provide a balanced and equal security for all the states of the region. Therefore, on this basis talks must be resumed in all Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks without any delay — to ensure that Israel does not undermine the bases of the peace process and the commitments made either as regards the agreements pertaining to the transitional period or as regards the issues relating to the negotiations over the final stage.

Brothers: The Arab summit conference unanimously welcomed the fact that the UN secretary general has secured the signing of a memo of understanding with the Iraqi government that permitted the carrying out of UN Security Council Resolution 986 of 1994, which provides for meeting the humanitarian and medical needs of the Iraqi people as a first step toward the alleviating of the suffering of the Iraqi people for which the only one to blame was the Iraqi government which refused to implement the UN Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712 of 1991. [passage omitted]

Likewise, at the Cairo summit, the Arab leaders expressed solidarity with the fraternal State of Bahrain, and their full support for the measures it took to consolidate its security and stability. They voiced their strong condemnation of interference in the internal affairs of the State of Bahrain, and they affirmed their standing on the side of the latter against any attempts at threats from any side. They urged Iran to respect the sovereignty of the State of Bahrain in the framework of mutual respect and good neighborliness, by avoiding any acts of sabotage for the good of security and stability in the region.

The Arab leaders also expressed support for the UAE [United Arab Emirates] in all the peaceful measures and means it took to recover its sovereignty on its three islands: Greater Tumb, Lesser Tumb, and Abu Musa. The Arab leaders urged Iran to put an end to its occupation of the three islands, stop the policy of imposing a fait accompli by force in these islands, and adopt peaceful means to resolve the dispute over them, in accordance with the principles and rules of international law, including acceptance of referring the dispute to the International Court of Justice.

Brothers, sisters: The stance of our states against terrorism is a standpoint dictated to us by the pure Islamic shari'ah and pure Arab values. This was stressed by the leaders of the Arab nation at their summit conference in Cairo by considering the phenomenon of terrorism as an international one which is alien to our society and values and requires from us a strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms regardless of its motives and its perpetrators. It also requires us to stand with determination against those acts and to coordinate our efforts so as to put an end to acts of terrorism on the bilateral, regional, and international levels and ensure that those who commit those acts are brought to book, and so as to prevent terrorist organizations from recruiting members, obtaining funds to finance their activities, acquiring weapons or training their members. On this premise, we express our full support for all the steps taken against the groups which use violence and terrorism to threaten security and stability.

I am fully confident that Arab consensus, which emerged clearly at the Arab summit conference in Cairo on those essential issues, is a portent — if this trend continues — of an Arab future which is more optimistic and of a more productive Arab action to the benefit of the fateful causes of our Arab nation.

Your Excellencies, brothers and sisters: The meeting of our committee in its sixth session today will give us an opportunity to assess what has been achieved

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through this committee in all the fields of political, economic, commercial, technical, cultural, and scientific cooperation. This meeting enables us also to discuss the means and ways to consolidate the ties between our two fraternal peoples in particular on the level of economic cooperation and trade exchanges so as to achieve our common interests and benefits. There is no doubt that the recommendations made by the preparatory commission in its meeting held in Damascus in the various fields will facilitate the mission of our committee. [passage omitted]

After that, His Excellency Faruq al-Shar' delivered a speech in which he said: I and all members of the Syrian Arab Republic's delegation have the pleasure to meet in the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to bolster bilateral bonds and cooperation between the two brotherly peoples who are linked together by close ties, common history, and fundamental interests which have grown and developed thanks to the care and guidance of their excellencies President Hafiz al-Asad and his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

I seize this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the joint efforts made at the last Damascus Summit by our three countries: Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the Egyptian Arab Republic whose positive influence was reflected on the common Arab action and the reconstruction of solidarity within the framework of firm commitment to the Arab League Charter and other Arab charters so as to safeguard the joint Arab security. In this respect, we could not but reiterate our strong condemnation of the terrorist act experienced by Saudi Arabia recently and our categorical rejection of whatever has harmed the security and stability of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its brotherly people, affirming our full solidarity with the king, the government, and the people of Saudi Arabia.

Our Arab countries stressed at the Cairo summit their firm and principled stance vis-a-vis the requirements for peace. They were unanimous in their commitment to the bases on which the peace process was established at the Madrid conference, which draws upon the resolutions of international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the principle of land for peace, which require a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 line and from southern Lebanon, in addition to Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian lands, including Arab Jerusalem, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

This unified and clear Arab stance is identical to international stances which have been affirmed at the EU summit and the G-7 summit, and previously affirmed at the Islamic and the Nonaligned Movement summits.

What we are witnessing now is a comprehensive international consensus on support for the Arab stance regarding the peace process, and facing that is the stance of the new Israeli government which has not let an opportunity pass without stressing its defiance of the international community's will, contempt for the bases of the peace process, and pursuance of extremist policies that will, if persisted with, close the door finally to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It would be wrong for anyone to think that Arabs will under any circumstances accept a de facto policy and relinquish any part of their occupied territories or their usurped rights. This Israeli policy will not enjoy success, however creative it may become in distorting concepts and facts. The world is now more aware about who is really supporting peace as a strategic option, and who is supporting expansionist and settlement policies and continuing to occupy by force land that belongs to others. In fact, these policies constitute the worst kind of terrorism. [passage omitted]

In this context and because we are convinced that there is a connection between Bahrain's national interests and the provision of security and stability in the Gulf region, which is of concern to us and to our brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states, Syria has begun to make urgent and sincere efforts to remove the blemishes that stain Bahraini-Iranian relations on the bases of understanding and good neighborliness and in a way that will contribute toward the consolidation of peace and stability of the State of Bahrain and that of the region's states.

Also in this context we look forward to achieving an overall positive development in Turkey's relations with Syria and other Arab states. We are optimistic about the emergence of good signs in Turkish policy that could pave the way for the establishment of relations of cooperation and good neighborliness between Turkey and all the Arab states.

Our meeting in the capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is another opportunity to consolidate our joint cooperation in all fields, work seriously toward removing the obstacles that are in the way, encourage opportunities for investment and trade exchanges, develop relations among all economic institutions in the two countries and motivate the private sector to take more initiatives for further cooperation on the basis of our commitment to develop this cooperation in accordance with a clear perception aimed at achieving the higher interests of our two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

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After that the opening session of the meeting ended and a closed session was held later.

Saudi Arabia: Prince Sultan—Saudi-Yemeni Talks Experiencing 'Difficulties'

LD0907205296 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In reply to a question by the Saudi news agency SPA on media reports concerning the border issue between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its sister the Republic of Yemen and what has been said about the interruption of the proceedings of the joint Saudi-Yemeni committee set up for that purpose, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, said that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given the border issue with the Republic of Yemen its full attention. He added that it has done everything that could facilitate the work of the committees set up for that purpose and ensure their success by virtue of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two countries on 27/9/1415 AH, corresponding to 26 February 1995, with a view to reaching a fraternal, final, and just agreement that would satisfy the two sisterly countries.

He also said: The path followed by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to settle the border issue with the sisterly Republic of Yemen is the same path of fraternity, cooperation, sincerity, and good intentions which the kingdom has always followed with its neighboring sisterly states and which helped, with God's assistance, to reach final agreements on borders. It was possible to reach such agreements only thanks to the same fraternal spirit shown by those sisterly states.

His highness added that within the framework of fraternal relations and sincere intentions to settle the border issue between the two countries, the higher committee, set up by virtue of Article 7 of the memorandum of undertanding, met in Riyadh on 24 and 25/7/1416 AH [in December 1995]. During that meeting, work undertaken by the various committees was discussed with a spirit of understanding and a common desire to remove all the obstacles and difficulties hindering the work of these committees.

His highness said: If the work of the committees is meeting difficulties despite the efforts made by the kingdom, this undoubtedly does not correspond to our desire and our endeavors to reach the pursued solution that would satisfy both sides. Therefore we have called for a meeting of the Higher Saudi-Yemeni Committee to push the work of the committees forward and remove any obstacles obstructing their work.

Saudi Arabia: Interview With Saudi Dissident Bin-Ladin

MS1007093396 London INDEPENDENT in English 10 Jul 96 p 14

[Report on interview with Saudi Dissident Usamah Bin-Ladin by Robert Fisk in Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usamah Bin-Ladin is a tall, slim man and when he walks towards me surrounded by his Arab "mujahidin" guerrillas in the mountains of Afghanistan, he towers over his companions. Huge insects fly through the night air, settling like burrs on his Saudi robes and on the clothes of his men. Bin-Ladin's narrow eyes and long beard were familiar amid the battlefields of Afghanistan where he and his guerrillas fought the Soviet invasion army of the Eighties. His appearance is little changed, the beard a trifle greyer, perhaps, but the fierceness unquenched. Then he fought the Russians. Now, determined to overthrow the monarchy in Saudi Arabia and oust the Americans from the Kingdom, he is describing the bombings that slaughtered 24 Americans in Riyadh and Khobar-Dhahran as a symbol of Saudi anger, the presence of US forces as an "insult" to the Saudi people.

For Bin-Ladin, the betrayal of the Saudi people began 24 years before his birth, when Abdul Aziz al-Saud proclaimed his kingdom in 1932.

"The regime started under the flag of applying Islamic law and under this banner all the people of Saudi Arabia came to help the Saudi family take power," he says as the night wind moves through the darkened trees, ruffling the robes of the Arab Afghan fighters around us. "Abdul Aziz did not apply Islamic law; the country was set up for his family. Then after the discovery of petroleum, the Saudi regime found another support — the money to make people rich and give them the services and life they wanted and to make them satisfied."

Bin-Ladin is picking his teeth with a piece of "miswak" wood, a habit that accompanies many of his conversations. History — or his version of it — is the basis of almost all his remarks. And the pivotal date is 1990, the year Saddam Husayn invaded Kuwait.

"When the American troops entered Saudi Arabia, the land of the two Holy places [Mecca and Medina], there was a strong protest from the ulema [religious authorities] and from students of the Shariah law all over the country against the interference of American troops. This big mistake by the Saudi regime of inviting the American troops revealed their deception. They had given their support to nations that were fighting against

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Muslims. They helped the Yemen Communists against the southern Yemeni Muslims and helped [Yassir] 'Arafat's regime fight Hamas [who opposed the peace process in the Middle East]. After it insulted and jailed the ulema 18 months ago, the Saudi regime lost its legitimacy."

Bin-Lad-n spreads his right hand and uses his fingers to list the "mistakes" of the Saudi monarchy. "At the same time, the financial crisis happened inside the Kingdom, and now all the people there suffer from this. Saudi merchants found that their contracts were broken. The government owes them 340 billion Saudi riyals, which is a very big amount; it represents 90 per cent of the national income inside the Kingdom. Prices are going up and people have to pay more for electricity, water and fuel. Saudi farmers have not received money since 1992, and those who get grants now receive them on government loans from banks. Education is deteriorating and people have to take their children from government schools and put them in private education, which is very expensive."

Bin-Ladin pauses to see if I have listened to his careful, if frighteningly exclusive history lesson. "The Saudi people have remembered now what the ulema told them and they realise America is the main reason for their problems.

"The ordinary man knows that his country is the largest oil producer in the world, yet at the same time he is suffering from taxes and bad services. Now the people understand the speeches of the ulemas in the mosques — that our country has become an American colony. They act decisively with every action to kick the Americans out of Saudi Arabia. What happened in Riyadh and Khobar [when 24 Americans were killed in two bombings] is clear evidence of the huge anger of Saudi people against America. The Saudis now know their real enemy is America."

There is a dark quality to Bin-Ladin's calculations. "If one kilogram of TNT exploded in a country in which nobody had heard an explosion in a hundred years, surely the exploding of 2,500 kilos of TNT at Khobar is evidence of the people's resistance to American occupation..."

Did not the Europeans resist German occupation in the Second World War, Mr Bin-Ladin asks? I tell him no European would accept this argument because the Nazis killed millions of Europeans, yet the Americans have never murdered a single Saudi. Surely, I say, such a parallel is historically and morally wrong.

Bin-Ladin does not agree. "We as Muslims have a strong feeling that binds us together... We feel for our brothers in Palestine and Lebanon. The explosion at Khobar did not come as a direct result of American occupation but as a result of American behaviour against Muslims... When 60 Jews are killed inside Palestine [in suicide bombings earlier this year], all the world gathers within seven days to criticise this action, while the deaths of 600,000 Iraqi children [after UN sanctions were placed on Iraq] did not receive the same reaction. Killing those Iraqi children is a crusade against Islam. We, as Muslims, do not like the Iraqi regime but we think that the Iraqi people and their children are our brothers and we care about their future."

Saudi Arabia's angriest dissident reserves some of his fury for the British. "I astonished at the British government," he says. "They sent a letter to me through their embassy in Khartoum before I left Sudan, saying that I would not be welcome in the UK. But I did not ask to go to Britain. So why did they send me this letter? The letter said, 'If you come to Britain, you will not be admitted.' The letter gave the Saudi press the opportunity of claiming that I had asked for political asylum in Britain — which is not true."

But it was America that captured Bin-Ladin's anger. "I believe that sooner or later the Americans will leave Saudi Arabia and that the war declared by America against the Saudi people means war against all Muslims everywhere. Resistance against America will spread in many, many places in Muslim countries. Our trusted leaders, the ulema, have given us a fatwa that we must drive out the Americans. The solution to this crisis is the withdrawal of American troops... their military presence is an insult for the Saudi people."

Yet did not the Americans support the mujahidin's war against the Soviets? "We were never at any time friends of the Americans," Bin-Ladin says. "We knew that the Americans support the Jews in Palestine and that they are our enemies. Most of the weapons that came to Afghanistan were paid for by the Saudis on the orders of the Americans because Turki al-Faysal [the head of Saudi external intelligence] and the CIA were working together."

So what kind of Arabian Islamic state does Mr Bin-Ladin wish to see? Would thieves and murderers still have their heads cut off, for example, in a Shariah-governed state? Mr Bin-Ladin's answer is unsatisfactory. All Muslims would love to live under true Shariah, he says. A guilty man would only be happy if he was justly punished. Dissident Mr Bin-Ladin may be. But moderate, never.

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Saudi Arabia: Dissident Tells Britain To Remove Its Troops

MS1007090096 London INDEPENDENT in English 10 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Robert Fisk: "Arab Rebel Leader Warns the British: 'Get Out of The Gulf'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Usamah Bin-Ladin, the fiercest opponent of the Saudi regime and of America's presence in the Gulf, has warned Britain that it must withdraw its servicemen from Saudi Arabia if it wishes to avoid the fate of the 19 Americans killed by a truck bomb in the Kingdom last month. In an interview with the Independent in a remote mountainous area of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province — to which he has returned from Sudan with hundreds of his Arab mujahidin guerrillas — the 40-year-old Saudi dissident declared that killing the Americans marked "the beginning of war between Muslims and the United States".

Although taking no personal responsibility for the bombings, which have sent tremors through the vulnerable, oil-rich states of the Arabian peninsula, Bin-Ladin insisted that the killing of the Americans in Khobar (Dhahran) just over two weeks ago demonstrated the depth of hatred for Americans in Saudi Arabia. "Not long ago, I gave advice to the Americans to withdraw their troops from Saudi Arabia," he said. "Now let us give some advice to the governments of Britain and France to take their troops out — because what happened in Riyadh and Khobar showed that the people who did this have a deep understanding in choosing their targets. They hit their main enemy, which is the Americans. They killed no secondary enemies, not their brothers in the army or the police of Saudi Arabia... I give this advice to the government of Britain."

Bin-Ladin, most of whose immensely wealthy family have remained loyal to King Fahd, has been accused by Western and Arab governments of being "the financier of an Islamic international army", training fighters to oppose the governments of Algeria and Egypt as well as Saudi Arabia. And in his long and sombre interview, he expressed his contempt for the Saudi monarchy and its failure to abide by Islamic shana law, adding that the "evils" of the Middle East stemmed from America's attempt to take over the region and from its support for Israel. My journey to him took me across miles of devastated villages and fields in the rocky mountainsides of the country where he once fought Soviet invaders, and it culminated in a remote village where dozens of his mujahidin, dressed in Afghan clothes, stood guard as he spoke.

In Saudi robes — and sitting next to his two teenage sons, Omar and Saad — Bin-Ladin revealed that he had arrived here from Sudan on 18 May with his fighters, after the Saudis and Americans had put pressure on the Khartoum military government to expel him. He claimed that he would carry on a campaign from Afghanistan to set up a "true" Islamic state under shana law in Saudi Arabia which, he said, had been turned into "an American colony". When I asked if he was declaring war on the West, he replied: "It is not a declaration of war — it's a real description of the situation. This doesn't mean declaring war against the West and Western people — but against the American regime which is against every Muslim." As he spoke, armed Egyptians, Saudis, Algerians and Afghans patrolled the night-time fields around us, their presence revealed by a single hissing gas lamp. At one point, Bin-Ladin broke off our conversation to pray, alongside his Arabs, on straw matting laid out in the field. Every few minutes, gunfire could be heard from the mountains to the east. "The explosion in Khobar," he said "did not come as a direct reaction to the American occupation but as a result of American behaviour against Muslims, its support of Jews in Palestine [as received] and the massacre of Muslims in Palestine and Lebanon — of Sabra and Chatila and Qana and of the Sharm al-Sheykh [anti-terrorist] conference."

Bin-Ladin's arrival back in Afghanistan after five-and-a-half years in Sudan marks a new stage in the campaign of the Organisation of Advice and Reform.

He accused the Saudi royal family of promising shanah laws while allowing the United States "to westernise Saudi Arabia and drain the economy". He blamed the Saudi regime for spending $25bn in support of Saddam Husayn in the Iran-Iraq war and a further $60bn in support of the Western armies in the war against Iraq m 1991, "buying military equipment which is not needed or useful for the country, buying airplanes by credit" — while at the same time creating unemployment high taxes and a bankrupt economy.

"The safest place in the world for me is Afghanistan," he said.

When I suggested to Bin-Ladin that Afghanistan was the only place — rather than the safest — in which he could campaign against the Saudi government, he and some of the Arab fighters around him burst into laughter. "There are other places," he replied.

Did he mean Tadjikistan, I asked? Or Uzbekistan? Or Kazakhstan? "There are several places where we have friends and close brothers — we can find refuge and safety in them." When I said that he was already a hunted man, he dismissed my comment with contempt.

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"Danger as a part of our life — do you not realise that we spent 10 years fighting against the Russians and the KGB?

When we were fighting the Russians here in Afghanistan, 10,000 Saudis came here to fight over a period of 10 years."

Usamah Bin-Ladin clearly believes he now represents the most formidable enemy of the Saudi regime and of the American presence in the Gulf. Both are probably right to regard him as such.

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Israel: Netanyahu on Intention To Promote 'Process of True Peace'

TA0907155496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1538 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has just arrived at the White House. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz is again on the phone:

[Raz] [Passage omitted] Binyamin Netanyahu, just like President Clinton before him, ignored the difficult questions we asked him. He would not say whether he will be saying anything explicit to Clinton, but he clearly stated that their private meeting here at the White House is very important:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] We share a strong desire to tell each other fundamental and important things about the friendship between Israel and the United States in our private meeting. We will try to promote a process of true peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel: PM Tells Christopher — 'Burden of Proof' on Palestinians

TA0907153896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is scheduled to hold his private meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at this time. The meeting between Netanyahu and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher ended an hour ago. Our correspondent in Washington Shlomo Raz is on the phone:

[Raz] The question everybody in the White House is asking at this time is whether, in their private meeting, Prime Minister Netanyahu will tell President Clinton things that are different or more explicit than those he told Warren Christopher earlier. In fact, the prime minister placed the burden of proof on the Palestinian side. He told Christopher and the U.S. peace team: We — Israel — want to meet the commitments we assumed, but the other side — the Palestinians — is violating its commitments. As an example, the prime minister cited the PLO activities in East Jerusalem. Incidentally — or perhaps intentionally — during the discussion on the commitments Israel is interested in meeting, Netanyahu mentioned Hebron as well.

Another issue raised in the meeting between the team headed by Netanyahu and the U.S. team headed by Christopher was a regional bank. The previous government and particularly former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres strongly pushed this issue. The Americans want to know whether Israel is still interested in establishing a regional bank to help the Palestinians economically, among other things. Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel said: Yes, Israel is interested. This is perhaps a hint that there is an intention to pursue the peace process and continue to help the Palestinians economically in order to promote it.

Israel: Clinton Reportedly Accepts Netanyahu 'Tough' Stand on Syria

TA0907180696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 9 Jul 96

[Talk between anchormen Ya'aqov Eylon and Miki Haimowitz in the studio in Jerusalem and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen in Washington — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Eylon] We now move over to the White House where President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu are scheduled to hold a joint news conference in a few minutes. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is reporting live from the White House. 'Imanu'el Rosen, can you tell us whether Netanyahu might be presenting any new positions to the U.S. President?

[Rosen] First of all, the news conference which was slated to begin in a few minutes will only start at 2045 [1745 GMT] Israel time. I do not know the reasons, good or bad, behind the prolongation of the meeting between the two leaders. I do not know whether they have a lot to talk about. We will learn all this later. At their tete-a-tete, the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. President held a first, very interesting discussion on the Syrian track. The President told Netanyahu that the United States accepts Israel's tough position vis-a-vis Syria's policy of terrorism; however, the negotiations with Syria must not be stopped as that would lead to a general explosion in the Middle East.

As for the Palestinian track, in their private meeting, Clinton apparently both demanded and received a clear answer from Netanyahu with regard to an imminent meeting with Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu Views Hebron Situation, Syrian Talks

TA1007063896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 10 Jul 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in Washington]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu came to Washington to tell the President: My policy for achieving peace is different, and I have a mandate from my people. The Clinton Administration is totally dedicated to the policy Netanyahu is now rejecting.

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[Begin Netanyahu recording] There is a new government in Israel, which has a different policy to achieve peace. It received that mandate in a democratic process, and the United States, as a democratic state, respects the decision of the Israeli public and will fully cooperate with the new government. [end recording]

The two leaders discussed Hebron. Netanyahu updated the President, and in the news conference he stressed that he is committed to the signed agreement. Settlements: the administration is very concerned that they will be expanded. Netanyahu bases himself on the reality created during the four years of the Rabin-Peres government when the number of Jewish settlers rose from 96,000 to 145,000. He will not surprise the Americans with new settlements. When the policy on this issue is decided, he will update the United States. Any such decision is linked to the negotiations with the Palestinians.

[Begin recording] [Netanyahu] We discussed the need to hold a new meeting, perhaps a new-old meeting — which has been acceptable to many U.S. Administrations — that the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government have to be in touch, and that is what we are doing. We will expand and deepen those ties. At the same time, both sides, and I stress both sides — and not only one side, the Israeli side — must fulfill their undertakings. I believe that this approach — which in my view is natural, basic, and elementary — was totally accepted by President Clinton and the U.S. Administration.

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, are you saying quite clearly: The policy toward Syria has been changed. I am trying to understand what the policy of the new Israeli Government you head is toward Syria.

[Netanyahu] Our policy toward Syria is a readiness to conduct talks with them in order to achieve peace between Syria and Israel and our rejection of the use of Hizballah terrorism at the same time as those talks. The first issue I will raise with Syria in any talks we will conduct with them is the need for Syria to cease the indirect terrorist offensive against us. We start from there in order to build relations of confidence and understanding, and I believe Lebanon is the first place we should start. [end recording]

Following the remark that the Americans understand that there is a new government and a new policy, Netanyahu's office started to realize that no chemistry was created between Netanyahu and Clinton. Netanyahu's close aides are now trying to convince us that this was not the case, that the two understand each other.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 10 July adds: "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said last night that the government will act to close illegal Palestinian offices in East Jerusalem. The prime minister made the remarks in a meeting with senior commentators in Washington. Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that a senior source in Netanyahu's entourage noted that Mr. Netanyahu did not specify Orient House in that context."

[The report went on to say that Mr. Netanyahu and President Clinton agreed on a series of steps for military cooperation. "It was agreed that the United States would supply Israel with an early warning system against a surface-to-surface missile attack by the end of the year. The Nautilus project to intercept katyushas will continue. Our correspondent notes that the two also agreed to strengthen cooperaion in the war against terrorism on the operational and intelligence levels. In Mr. Netanyahu's meeting with Secretary of State Christopher, it was agreed that the joint antiterrorism working group will convene by the end of the month. The meeting will be a continuation of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference. Defense issues were also discussed with Secretary of Defense William Perry. Our correspondent says that in his meeting with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin it was agreed that the United States and Israel would set up two joint economic bodies to deal with speeding up privatization in Israel and improving the operation of the capital market."]

Israel: IDF Clashes With Hebron Youths Over Clinton-Netanyahu Meeting

TA1007113396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers clashed with dozens of Arab youths who hurled stones and bottles in Hebron this morning. No one was hurt. The rioters were dispersed and the army closed the shops in the city center.

A small explosive charge blew up near an army roadblock, but no one was hurt there either.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem was told in Hebron that the riot was due to the youths' disappointment with the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting and the impression that the United States is not pressuring Israel to leave Hebron.

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Israel: Editorial Believes Netanyahu, Clinton Agreed To Disagree

TA1007102096 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial: "The Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The picture was heartwarming: There were two youthful, good looking, sturdy, eloquent men who looked as though they were poured from the same mold, and with chemistry — even if not agreement — prevailing between them.

But beyond the heartwarming scene, the meeting between President Clinton and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu left some questions unanswered, and one of the major ones is: Was it really chemistry or only mutual agreement not to disclose the differences of opinion?

And differences of opinion there were. Clinton remains committed to the Oslo Accords and the continuation of the peace process, while Netanyahu refused, although politely, to make a commitment and stressed the priority he gives to security. Even on the Hebron redeployment Netanyahu would only offer to consult with his colleagues.

All that was anticipated, but in Israel a clash was expected, or perhaps even hoped for, and that did not come about. What Clinton said although politely and out of friendship was: We will not impose our positions on Israel, but in our view it would be a mistake not to honor agreements.

And the two apparently agreed, in a gentlemanly and friendly fashion, to remain divided in their views, but not to fight, at least not for now.

Israel: Clinton's 'Frozen Body Language,' Netanyahu's Tactic Analyzed

TA1007111096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jul 96 p A2

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Terms 'Settlements' and 'Territories' Will Have To Be Used"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Anyone accustomed to Yitzhaq Rabin's and Shim'on Peres' warm meetings with President Clinton could easily perceive the frozen body language of the U.S. President as he listened to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's remarks at their joint news conference. This chilliness, as well as certain differences in emphasis, if not in policies, does not indicate that what the diplomatic jargon refers to as "crisis" is at hand, or even that there are "substantial disagreements." As could be expected four months prior to the elections, Netanyahu was given a free meal at the White House. However, it could be seen as an intimation of what Netanyahu can expect when he returns here in November, if the man he finds in the Oval Office is Clinton. Skeptics may say Bob Dole will not settle for the "peace with security" formula for long either. As was implied in the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher yesterday, no one will be able to keep the term "territories," and even more so the term "settlements," out of the peace process for very long.

And if the perfect political timing of the visit was not enough, the guest was given a superb first course: The live broadcast of his lecture on the principle of reciprocity was preceded by a live broadcast in which Secretary of Defense William Perry was crucified at a special Senate session on the Dhahran bombing. Netanyahu made marvelous use of this crack, as well as every other crevice Israel's peace process partners have so generously provided him with. He was not obliged to criticize the Oslo Accords, and was thus able to be generous toward the previous government's U.S.-guaranteed commitments to the Palestinians and Syrians. Asked about the commitment to evacuate Hebron, Netanyahu uttered nonchalantly that he was not the one who coined the term "there are no sacred dates." He went on to explain that Peres had been equally unable to withdraw the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from Bet Hadassah, wrapping up his arguments with a definition of "reciprocity," which is so agreeable to the human ear. He again threw the ball into the Arab court, making perfect use of the cracks in Peres' peace policy, through which he slipped into the prime minister's bureau on 29 May.

Netanyahu repeatedly enumerated the flaws of 'Arafat's fight against terrorism, the most recent one being the release of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] prisoners. Netanyahu listed facts about Orient House activities. Even when discussing the settlement issue, he referred the Americans to Peres and Rabin, using data on the expansion of settlements in the territories sponsored and financed by the Labor government.

As for Syrian intransigence vis-a-vis the Labor government and Syria's support for terrorism, Netanyahu did not have to cite any new facts. On the other hand, he rid the U.S.-Israeli track of the tradition of reciprocity under which Israel makes concessions and the United States pays with economic and military aid. Netanyahu announced that he was the first prime minister who did not come to Washington with a shopping list. He will strive for economic independence, he said, namely — waiving Israel's economic dependence on the United States, which would eliminate the United States' traditional means of pressure.

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Faced with all this, plus the restrictions that U.S. politics impose on a President during election year, in addition to the shadow of the Dhahran bombing, Clinton had no recourse but to softly deflect the ball from terrorism to peace. The President pledged to adhere to the process launched in Oslo (rather than Madrid, which Netanyahu tried to promote); he even accepted the Israeli electorate's adjudication that the process would assume a new shape and promised to preserve "the special relations." Yet the principal message the U.S. Administration has been trying to communicate since the Israeli elections is that just as it is hard to promote peace under the threat of terrorism, he will be unable to exterminate terrorism unless the peace process makes progress.

Israel: U.S.-Israel 'Gaps' Seen Liable To Evolve Into 'Chasm'

TA1007111896 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Jul 96 p 3

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "It Was Not the Beginning of a Beautiful Friendship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There was no great chemistry there at the White House news conference yesterday. Although U.S. President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said everything they were expected to say, the event did not appear to herald the beginning of a beautiful friendship. The reason may be their newness to one another, or possibly the residue of bitterness resulting from Clinton's biased stand on the eve of the Israeli elections. It is also possible that both men realized that as regards the peace process, Israel and the United States are suddenly faced with gaps that may one day evolve into a full-fledged chasm.

The encounter between the two leaders has to be evaluated on the basis of two different and separate criteria — statesmanship and politics. On the level of statesmanship, the Clinton-Netanyahu encounter met its objectives: Clinton needed Netanyahu at his side to signal to U.S. Jews that he remains a loyal friend for whom they should vote in November, while Netanyahu showed the Israeli public that even when the prime minister's stands disagree with the customary U.S. positions, he can still have a warm, genial reception in Washington.

On the political level, however, the Americans have many valid reasons for concern, and some of them were even voiced at the news conference itself. Netanyahu spoke of the need for greater Palestinian efforts against terrorism, and Clinton retorted with remarks about the dramatic improvement already made in this matter. Netanyahu emphasized the need to confront Syria regarding its support for terrorism, and Clinton replied on the need to maintain an open dialogue with Damascus and to pursue the efforts toward comprehensive peace. Netanyahu praised the 1991 Madrid Conference, while Clinton preferred to focus on the breakthroughs made since 1992. Netanyahu stressed that there is no peace without security, while Clinton replied that neither is there security without peace.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu started to answer the question that has been troubling the international community since his election: Is he an ideologue or a pragmatist? He may have evinced some of the pragmatism the Americans are so eager to detect in him in his tete-a-tete with the U.S. President last night, which a senior source defined as "good and straightforward." At the news conference, however, the prime minister evinced a surprising adherence to the Likud's traditional ideology, to his election campaign pledges, and to the political line which earned him the Israeli public's support, but which gave rise to serious apprehension worldwide.

This may have been the reason why the only genuine smile the reporters saw on President Clinton's face during the news conference came when he was asked why he had supported Shim'on Peres during the election campaign. "Isn't it obvious?" the U.S. President said.

Israel: Chief of Staff on Syria's Role in Hizballah Activity

TA0907161396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The chief of staff has sharply criticized the government's decision to cut the defense budget. Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq told the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the cutbacks made it impossible to guarantee the same level of security, but he added that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would do its utmost to ensure the maximum level of security.

As Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was due to be discussing in Washington the Syrian role in terrorism, the IDF chief of staff said Syria is permitting Iran to arm Hizballah. [passage omitted]

[Begin correspondent David Ze'ev recording] On the Syrians, the general said, according to a committee official present at the closed-door meeting, Syria is not preventing the transfer of weapons from Iran to Hizballah through Syrian territory. Just recently, the IDF chief said, Hizballah received a large quantity of weapons via Damascus. Among the weapons: upgraded katyusha rockets with the potential to reach a greater number of targets in Israel and missiles manufactured in Iran with a greater explosive material than the katyusha.

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The chief of staff's comments on the Syrian role in Hizballah activity were backed up by a senior intelligence officer, a brigadier general who also appeared before the committee. Asked by committee member Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer of Labor if it were true that if Syria would decide that Hizballah should stop its attacks, Hizballah would stop, the brigadier general responded: There is no doubt about it. But in response to Meretz committee member Yosi Sarid, the senior intelligence officer said the assessment remained that Syria is on a course of peace. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay said if the government decides to ease the closure, it will be done gradually and security will be maintained.

Israel: Levi—Syria Must Choose Between Terror, 'Olive Branch'

TA0907162296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said today that Israel does not intend to isolate Syria and does want to hold a dialogue toward peace with it without preconditions. At the same time, he said, Damascus must choose between terror and the olive branch. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Minister Levi made these remarks at a briefing for foreign diplomats. He noted that contacts are already being held with the Palestinian Authority. Levi also said that Israel is interested in upgrading the level of relations with Russia.

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Jordan: King Husayn Says Peace, Security 'Two Faces of Same Coin'

JN0907180896 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that peace in the Middle East is an irreversible reality, stressing that just and comprehensive peace will dispel doubts from all parties.

He expressed hope that the peoples of the region will harvest the dividends of peace, and its benefits be felt by the coming generations. The king added that peace and security are two faces of the same coin and complete each other. He urged all parties to continue the peace process in order to realize a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

The king reiterated that all parties should abide by the agreements they signed, and said that negotiations are the only way for achieving peace. The king said confidence would overcome skepticism and doubt.

His majesty was speaking to a delegation from the U.S. Peace Activists at the Royal Court today. The audience was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, and the chief chamberlain.

Jordan: 'Constitution' of 'United Arab Kingdom'

JN0307110196 Amman SAWT AL-MAR'AH in Arabic 26 Jun 96 pp 8,9

["Text" of the draft constitution of the "United Arab Kingdom," as a proposed formula uniting the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the state of Palestine]

[FBIS Translated Text] In confirmation of the depth of the connections that draw the Arab Jordanian and Palestinian peoples together, to bolster the pillars of a government of Arab identity and pan-Arab reach, driven by faith in the centrality of cooperation between peoples and states and faith in the Arab unity championed by all free, enlightened, and independent wills, and out of faith in the Hashemite road grounded in cooperation, rapprochement and persistent work, and out of faith in joint Arab action as a basis for unifying firm pan-Arab thoughts and methods, the peoples of Jordan and Palestine have agreed on the following:

Chapter I

General Rules:

Article 1: The United Kingdom shall be composed of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine.

Article 2: Each of the constituent parts of the United Kingdom shall retain its independent international character and the existing system of government.

Article 3: International treaties and charters and agreements to which any part of the United Kingdom had been committed before the United Kingdom came into being shall remain in force as far as the state that had entered into them, but they shall not be binding on the other components. Any international treaties, charters, or agreements entered into afterward shall fall within the jurisprudence and authority of the United Kingdom.

Article 4: The United Kingdom's government shall be composed of the king of the United Kingdom and a legislative authority, an executive authority, and a judicial authority.

Article 5: The king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall be the king of the United Kingdom. On the occasions when he will travel out of the country, his crown prince shall act as his deputy, after the latter is instituted by a royal decree.

Article 6: The United Kingdom's throne is hereditary in the dynasty of King 'Abdallah bin al-Husayn and the throne shall be inherited by male members descended from male children of the monarch, and the king's tenure passes from the sovereign sitting on the throne to his eldest son and then to the eldest son of that eldest son and so on. However, the king may name one of his male brothers as heir apparent, in which case the throne's tenure passes from the reigning monarch to him. The king's deputy shall be sworn in as provided for by Article (43) of this Constitution.

Article 7: Amman shall be the permanent seat of the United Kingdom's Government.

Article 8: Each of the component members of the United Kingdom shall retain its individual flag and national anthem.

Article 9: The citizens of the member states — irrespective of race and religion — shall, as stipulated by extant laws, enjoy the freedoms and rights guaranteed by the International Declaration on Human Rights. Each individual shall have the right to own property and the freedom to move throughout the United Kingdom. The same shall also have the freedom to live and reside in any part of the kingdom, choose the profession of their choice, engage in any trade or commerce or any work and join institutions of learning and universities.

Chapter II

Jurisdictions of the United Kingdom

Article 10:

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A — The following areas shall be the responsibility of the United Kingdom government.

1. Foreign affairs and diplomatic and consular representation.

2. Entering into international treaties, charters, and agreements.

3. Safeguarding the member states of the United Kingdom and their internal and external safety and security.

4. The establishment and administration of the armed forces under the name of the Arab Army. None of the United Kingdom's members may keep armed formations other than internal police and security forces.

5. The organization of the Higher Defense Council and military service and mobilization under special laws.

6. Matters of Customs and their legislation.

7. Coordination of financial and economic policies.

8. The organization of currency and banking affairs.

9. The standardization of the policies of education and its systems and curricula.

10. Joint affairs of roads and transportation.

11. Any matter that the House of Representatives may decide by a two-thirds majority to be relevant, after it has won the approval of the member governments.

B — All other affairs and powers shall remain in the hands of the member states of the United Kingdom.

Article 12: [no Article 11 as published] All the laws and systems and royal orders and decrees and the decisons made by the United Kingdom's authorities shall take immediate effect under this Constitution's provisions on all the authorities and individuals of the constituenet members.

Chapter III

The Legislative Authority

Article 13: The United Kingdom's legislative authority shall be invested in the Parliament and the king of the United Kingdom.

Article 14:

A. The Parliament shall be comprised of 160 members split down the middle between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Palestine.

B. Each constituency in the two states shall be represented by one deputy at least and these shall be elected under a law to be enacted for this purpose.

C. Taking into account the numerical proportion spelled out in the aforementioned Paragraph (A), under the law, a review may be undertaken of the number and mode of election of the Parliament members.

D. The Parliament shall be composed through the election of the deputies in each of the two member states as stated in Paragraph (B).

E. The deputies elected to the Parliament of the United Kingdom may not combine membership in the parliament of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and membereship in the Palestinian Legislative Council.

Article 15:

A. A deputy may not combine parliamentary memership and public office or engage in work with a person contracted to do business for one of the public authorities in any of the member states of the kingdom. There shall be exemptions for lessees of state land and all other government property. Public office is defined here as any employment for which its holder receives salary from any member state.

B. Each member of the parliament will swear the following oath before their term begins:

I swear by the Almighty God to be faithful to the king and the kingdom and to uphold the Constitution of the United Kingdom and to faithfully carry out the duties entrusted in me.

Article 16: The king of the United Kingdom shall call the parliament into session and recess the same in accordance with this Constitution's provisions.

Article 17:

A. The parliament of the United Kingdom sits for four Gregorian years, each having one ordinary session commencing on the first Saturday of January, except if that day happens to be an official holiday, in which case the session shall be held on the following day. If the parliament is not called into session on the aforementioned date, it shall be convened in accordance with the Constitution.

B. The king may, under a royal order — to be published in the Official Gazette — defer the United Kingdom's parliament sessions only twice on condition that the total of postponements within any one ordinary session does not exceed two months, and these postponements shall not be calculated within the session's duration.

Article 18: The ordinary session's duration shall be four months, and the king may extend it as the need arises.

Article 33: [as published] The United Kingdom's Council of Ministers shall present every draft law to the parliament. Except for financial matters, 20 deputies may propose laws.

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Article 34:

A — Each draft law proposed by the Council of Ministers shall be referred to one of the parliamentary committees to report on it ahead of it being debated and then voted on.

B — Each draft law moved by parliamentary deputies shall be referred to one of the house's specialized committees for it to give its opinion on it. It will then be presented to the Council of Ministers. If it is accepted, it will next be referred to the Parliament for it to be formulated as a draft law either in the same term or in the next one. If the Parliament throws out the proposal it can only be presented again during another coming session.

Article 35 — The Parliament shall vote on a draft bill article by article and then vote on it as a package. Subject to the Parliament's approval, the vote may be taken on the basis of a package.

Article 36:

A — Every draft law approved by the Parliament shall be submitted for endorsement by the king of the United Kingdom.

B — If the king decides not to endorse the draft law, he may refer it back to Parliament within 30 days of its submission to him, accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for not endorsing it. Should the king not refer the draft law back within this period, it shall mean it is as good as endorsed.

C — Should the draft law be referred back to Parliament in the manner described above and then if the Parliament approves it by a two-thirds majority it will be submitted for endorsement and if it is not endorsed within the time span specified in Paragraph (B), it shall be regarded as having been endorsed.

Article 37 — Each law shall be published in the official gazette of the United Kingdom within 15 days of its endorsement and shall take effect in the component parts of the United Kingdom 30 days after it is published, unless the law states that it will take effect as of a different date.

Article 38 — Each parliamentary deputy may direct queries to any minister in accordance with the internal rules of the house.

Chapter IV

The Executive Authority

Article 39 — The executive authority will be invested in the king of the United Kingdom and he will exercise it through the council of ministers of the United Kingdom under the provisions of the Constitution.

Article 40 — The king of the United Kingdom is immune to any liability or responsibility.

Article 41 — The king shall exercise his powers under a royal order that is issued in accordance with a proposal by the appropriate minister. In order for it to take effect, it must be signed by the prime minister and the appropriate minister. Exempted from that will be the royal order pertaining to the appointment of the prime minister or dismissing him or accepting his resignation. As for the royal order involving the naming of, dismissing, or accepting the resignation of ministers, it shall be signed by the king and prime minister of the United Kingdom.

Article 42 — The United Kingdom's Cabinet shall be composed of the prime minister and ministers whose numbers shall be determined by the kingdom's interests. It is possible to name a deputy prime minister and state ministers. The choice of ministers must ensure the participation of the members states of the kingdom in the Cabinet. These must hold the citizenship of a member state of the kingdom and meet the requirements of membership in their respective legislatures.

Article 43 — The prime minister and ministers have to swear the following oath before the United Kingdom's king:

I swear by almighty God to be faithful to the king and United Kingdom and to safeguard the Constitution and to faithfully carry out the tasks entrusted to me.

Article 44:

A — The Council of Ministers shall be responsible for running the affairs of the kingdom within the confines of the areas spelled out in this Constitution or under any law or system worked out under the Constitution.

B — The Cabinet's decisions shall be referred for the king's perusal. He is entitled to ask that any of these decisions be reviewed. These decisions are carried out by the prime minister and ministers each within the limits of their jurisdiction.

Article 45:

A — Each minister shall be responsible for his department and shall implement the kingdom's general policies.

B — The minister of state shall handle the affairs he is charged with by the prime minister.

Article 46:

A — A person may combine a ministerial post and parliament membership, but he may not combine a ministerial post in the government of the United Kingdom

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and membership in the legislature of a constituent part of the kingdom.

B — It shall not possible to combine a ministerial post and public office or engagement in the service of a person contracted to do business to the government of the United Kingdom or any public authority in one of the constituent states of the United Kingdom. The minister may not purchase or lease any property belonging to the government of the United Kingdom or the constituent states even at a public auction. During his tenure, a minister may not sit on the board of any company, engage in any commercial or financial activity, receive a salary from any official or nonofficial establishment, or engage in any private business.

Article 47:

A — The king of the United Kingdom names, dismisses, and accepts the resignation of the prime minister, and as recommended by the latter, the king also names, dismisses, and accepts the resignations of ministers.

B — Upon the prime minister's resignation or dismissal or death, all the ministers shall automatically be regarded as having resigned or dismissed.

Article 48 — Salaries of the prime minister and ministers are determined by law.

Article 49 — The prime minister and ministers have a collective responsibility before the Parliament for the United Kingdom's general policies and each minister is responsible for his ministry's affairs.

Article 50 — If the Parliament decides by a two-thirds majority to withhold confidence in the government, it must resign immediately, and if the Parliament withholds confidence in a minister, he must also resign.

Article 51:

A — A parliamentary session for a vote of confidence in the government or a minister shall be held at the request of the speaker or at least 20 deputies.

B — Taking a vote of confidence may be put off for a period of no more than seven days if the prime minister or the minister in question should ask for that. The parliament may not be broken up in the meantime.

Article 52 — Once a government is formed, it has to present its policy statement to the Parliament within one month of the date of its formation if the Parliament is in session. The government shall ask for a vote of confidence based on its policy statement. If the Parliament is not in session or has been dissolved, the inaugural speech will be regarded as the government's policy statement for the purposes of this article.

Article 54:

A — The Parliament can bring charges against the government, whose ministers stand trail before the Supreme Court. The indictment sheet is approved by secret balloting and passed by a two-thirds majority vote.

B — A minister thus charged shall be suspended pending the court ruling.

Article 55 — The king of the United Kingdom shall name the diplomatic representatives of the kingdom's government, dismiss them, and accept their resignations as spelled out in the law; and he will accept the letters of credence from diplomatic representatives of other countries.

Article 56 — The king of the United Kingdom enters into treaties, charters, and agreements pertaining to the areas of responsibility of the government of the United Kingdom and endorses them after they pass the Parliament.

Article 57:

A — The king of the United Kingdom is the supreme commander of the Arab Army and he shall declare war after securing the Parliament's approval. If the Parliament happens to have been dissolved, it is summoned immediately for this purpose.

B — The king of Jordan shall be the supreme commander of the armed forces in the Arab Army stationed in Jordan and Palestine.

C — The actual exercise of command shall be invested in the Arab Army's staff command headquartered in Amman.

D — The king, based a recommendation by the minister of defense and the prime minister of the United Kingdom, shall, guided by law, name the Arab Army's chief of staff and his aides, front commanders and division commanders and other officers of the same rank.

E — Military ranks are awarded or withheld as provided for in the Constitution of each of the two states, based on the recommendation of the minister of defense and prime minister of the United Kingdom under the provisions of the law of the officer service. The action will be announced in a royal order.

Article 58 — The king shall issue the orders for implementing the laws.

Article 59 — The terms for appointments and salaries, discipline, promotions, retirement, and other civil and military service matters concerning all personnel in the payroll of the United Kingdom's government shall be governed by law.

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Article 60 — If the need arises for taking urgent measures while the Parliament is in recess or after having been dissolved, the king may issue royal decrees that have the force of law. These decrees that must not violate the provisions of the Constitution, are put to the Parliament for a debate at the first session it holds after their release. If the Parliament rejects them, they will become null and void from the date of their rejection with the proviso that this does not compromise the contracts entered into or rights acquired under these decrees.

Article 61 — All systems and decrees are issued with the approval of the Cabinet and must bear the signature of the prime minister and ministers.

Chapter V

The Judicial Authority

Article 62:

A — A Supreme Court shall be installed, comprised of its heads and six judges, three of whom shall come from the Court of Cassation in each of the two states of the United Kingdom; alternatively they may be other personnel of the same rank drawn from the legal profession.

B — The Supreme Court's quorum shall be five judges including the court head.

C — The Supreme Court's verdicts shall be adopted by an absolute majority.

D — The Supreme Court shall convene in the United Kingdom's government seat.

E — The Supreme Court's verdicts shall be irrevocable and binding and the method of their execution shall be defined by law.

Article 63 — The following functions shall be the responsibility of the Supreme Court alone:

A — Prosecuting Parliament deputies.

B — Arbitrating potential disagreements between the United Kingdom's government and one or more of its members or those between members themselves.

C — Dispensing legal counsel on matters referred to it by the United Kingdom's prime minister.

D — Interpreting the United Kingdom's Constitution and laws upon the request of the United Kingdom's prime minister and the prime minister of one of its constituent states. The court ruling judging the respective law or decree to be unconstitutional shall overturn it as of the day of its issuance.

E — Appealing irrevocable verdicts issued by the courts of the member states, if such decisions involve ruling on a dispute compromising Constitutional provisions and any law pertaining to the United Kingdom.

Article 64:

A — The king, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, shall name the Supreme Court head and all its members, who shall be immune to dismissal.

B — A special law shall govern the qualifications and the terms of appointment of the Supreme Court's members and all matters pertinent to their service.

Article 65 — The Parliament may form other courts as needed.

Chapter VI

The United Kingdom's Finances

Article 66:

A — The United Kingdom's government shall have fixed sources of revenue that will be collected through levying taxes and fees on these sources. The member states shall surrender as much of these revenues to the United Kingdom's government as will be needed for the United Kingdom's government to perform its functions and deliver its responsibilities under provisions of the Constitution.

B — The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's Government shall cover 50 percent of the revenues for the first year's budget of the United Kingdom government.

C — The State of Palestine shall cover 50 percent of these revenues.

D — At the end of the first fiscal year, the provisions of the above mentioned Paragraph (A) shall be invoked. Should the money pledged for the United Kingdom's government as stipulated in the said paragraph, the United Kingdom's government shall have the right to impose on the member states' sources of revenue the proportions it deems necessary to meet the United Kingdom's expenses.

Article 67 — Estimates of the United Kingdom's revenues and expenses shall be made in an annual budget to be ratified by law before the commencement of the financial year on 1 January.

Article 68 — No salary shall be allocated, cash bonus offered, or any money disbursed from the treasury of the United Kingdom's government unless these had been provided for in the budget and their source of financing determined by law.

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Article 69 — The Parliament shall debate the budget chapter by chapter, and should the budget still not be passed by the commencement of the financial year, spending shall continue under monthly allocations at the rate of one twelfth for each month of the outgoing year's budget.

Article 70 — No sum shall be carried over from one year to the next in the budget and no sum shall be added on to the budget or canceled without a law.

Article 71:

A — An Audit Bureau shall be created under a law to monitor the revenues and expenses of the United Kingdom's government. It will also monitor the ways in which the money is spent and audit the government's accounts.

B — The Audit Bureau shall submit a general report to the Parliament featuring the bureau's opinion, observations, and a statement of violations and a determination of those responsible for them at the commencement of each ordinary session or whenever the Parliament requests that.

C — The president of the Audit Bureau shall enjoy immunity under law.

Article 72:

A — The United Kingdom's government may posses movable and immovable property and run it and use it within the limits of the law.

B — All the United Kingdom government's funds, real estate, and assets and whatever it may acquire in any form shall be exempt from taxes and fees required by law in all members of the United Kingdom.

Chapter VII

Constitutional Amendment

Article 73 — The Constitution may be amended as follows:

A — Subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers, the king or the Parliament, under a petition signed by 81 deputies, may request that a Constitutional amendment be introduced and specify the provision or provisions they wish to be amended, scrapped, or added.

B — The requested Constitutional amendment shall be debated by the Parliament which must pass it by a two-thirds majority vote.

C — If the amendment is passed by the Parliament, it will be referred to the legislatures of the member states. If the amendment is passed there by an absolute majority representing the combined vote of the Parliament, the amendment will become law after being endorsed by the king of the United Kingdom as stated in Article (35).

Chapter VIII

Miscellaneous rules

Article 74 — In the event of emergencies potentially threatening public security in any part of the United Kingdom, the king, subject to a government decision, may under a royal order declare a state of emergency throughout the United Kingdom or in one part of it. The administration of the areas covered by the state of emergency shall be subject to a special law under which the person or persons appointed to take charge are given the authority to take the necessary measures and arrangements including the suspension of the ordinary laws. The law also provides for certain crimes to be prosecuted by ad hoc tribunals.

Article 75 — In the event of disturbances or grave developments in any part of the United Kingdom or in the event of a threat of an impending danger on any area of the United Kingdom, the head of the United Kingdom, based on a decision by the Council of Ministers, may declare in a royal order martial law in the place or area where there have been disturbances or grave developments or a threat of aggression.

Article 76 — Royal orders may include the power to suspend ordinary laws or the prevailing systems in the areas determined by these orders, with all the persons charged with the implementation of the said orders legally accountable for their actions until they are relieved of such responsibility under a law to be enacted for this purpose.

Article 77 — If one of the governments of the constituent members of the United Kingdom declares a state of emergency or martial law throughout or in part of its territory under its existing laws, it may do so with reference to its own statutes and without referring to the United Kingdom's government. Military forces stationed at the time in this part of the kingdom shall be responsible for the implementation of these arrangements and measures, but the United Kingdom's government must be duly informed.

Article 78 — If all the governments of the members of the United Kingdom declare a state of emergency or martial law in their respective states so as to cover all the territory of the kingdom, this shall amount to a declaration issued by the United Kingdom's government.

Article 79:

A — The United Kingdom's government shall set the dates and determine the measures pertaining to its

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taking over the responsibility assigned to it from the governments of the member states.

B — This Constitution shall take effect after it wins the approval of the legislatures of the member states and be ratified in accordance with Constitutional rules.

C — Each of the member states shall move to amend its own Constitution so that its provisions are harmonized with those of this Constitution, and each member must abide by its provisions.

D — It is the duty of the Council of Ministers of the United Kingdom and the governments of the member states to implement the provisions of this Constitution.

Jordan: Israeli Embassy Takes Steps To Speed up Visa Process

JN0907185396 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by JORDAN STAFF reporter Amy Henderson]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Israeli Embassy will on Wednesday [10 July] add four employees to its consulate section which will move to a new hall in its current location to help hasten the visa application process, an embassy spokesman said Monday. [8 July]

The decision to bring extra staff, said embassy spokesperson Shalim Tourgeman, follows complaints from Jordanian applicants that they must queue for long periods of time before they can apply for a visa and that the processing of the applications may take weeks rather than days.

"In June, summer holidays began, and we had more people wanting to travel to Israel to visit relatives," said Mr. Tourgeman, "in the spring, we didn't foresee this demand."

Long queues behind the Fort Grand Hotel are not an uncommon sight these days. Jordanians this summer began lining up as early as 3 and 4 a.m. to apply to for a visa, and often never make it through the consulate's doors.

According to Mr. Tourgeman, 300 to 400 people arrive daily to apply for visas, but "(the embassy) can address only 100-200 people each day."

"Many of these come with more than one passport and apply for their entire family," he said. "At the same time, people have to understand that we are operating from a hotel and we don't have enough employees."

The embassy currently has a staff of two handling visa applications, which is insufficient to meet demand, he said. As of Wednesday, the embassy will employ four additional Arabic-speaking clerks and move the section that handles visas to the lower level of the Forte Grand nightclub, Jugglers, to accommodate more people, he said.

Additionally, said Mr. Tourgeman, getting clearance from the Israeli interior ministry is also a slow process. As of Monday, he said, the embassy was waiting for approval from Israel for between 500 and 600 applications.

The length of time that it now takes to process an application is also contingent upon whether or not a passport holder had a previous Israeli visa, he said.

"People who have applied before and gotten (a visa) one before can get (a visa) on the same day they apply," he said. "If the applicant is new, it should take three to five days, but with the extra demand of the summer, it is taking from one to two weeks."

Mr. Tourgeman denied that it was an unwillingness on behalf of Israel to issue visas that was complicating and prolonging the whole procedure.

"(Issuing visas) is part of (the embassy's) job," he said. "it is in our best interest that people come to Israel. To the contrary, we very much want them to come and we do want to provide a good service, We are trying our best to accommodate everyone."

Last week, Israeli ambassador Shim'on Shamir criticised in a statement to Reuters the lengthy procedure of issuing visas, saying that the delay was in violation of the 1994 Jordan-Israel peace treaty which stipulates that Israel should grant or refuse visas to Jordanians within five days of application.

"This question is turning into a troublesome problem in relations between the two countries," he said. "Jordanians are complaining of difficulties that they encounter when they apply for visas, while on the other hand, 150,000 Israelis visited Jordan last year."

According to Mr. Trougeman, the Israeli embassy has issued 17,500 visas to Jordanians since Aug. 14, 1995. Fourteen thousand of those have been issued the first six months of this year. He could not say how many applicants the embassy had since that date.

"We have heard people say that we refuse a lot of applicants," he said, "but this isn't true. We refuse, maybe, only one per cent of applicants."

"We do refuse a large number who state that they are applying for working permits—we don't issue work permits," he said.

Others have complained that those who hold both Israeli identification cards for the West Bank and Jordanian passports, but whose family members hold only

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Jordanian passports, cannot travel with their families to Israel due to the closure of the occupied territories.

Mr. Tourgeman responded that those who carry Israeli identification cards are not entitled to visas in their Jordanian passports, and, he said, are neither issued visas nor allowed to cross at the northern or southern crossing.

"They must go through the (King Husayn) bridge, and then they are treated as West Bank citizens until they (relinquish) their Israeli card," He said.

Mr. Tourgeman said that he hoped the problem would be further alleviated when the embassy moves to its permanent resident in al-Rabya later this year and more staff are employed.

Jordan: Jordanian, Israeli Officials on Visa Delay

JN1007061996 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 9 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of Transport Nasir al-Lawzi said some Israeli measures were hindering the implementation of agreements signed between Jordan and Israel. Al-Lawzi, who confirmed that the Jordanian-Israeli transport agreement has been implemented fully, said Israeli restrictions on visas issued to Jordanians should be lifted soon for things to move smoothly. In an interview with the News at Ten reporter Samir Farraj, al-Lawzi said that both countries are now engaged in discussions in a bid to resolve the issue.

[Begin recording] [Farraj] The Jordanian-Israeli transport agreement has been implemented fully. How would you see this role in strengthening the relations between Jordanians and Israelis?

[Al-Lawzi] The implementation of the transport agreement plays a major role in strengthening the agreements generally between Jordan and Israel, especially related to export, imports, trade, and other facilities, and the numbers are picking up gradually. There is more and more people using whether the buses, the cars, and even the cargo shipping that had started a couple of weeks ago, and we expect that this will further improve these relations and strengthen the ties when it comes to, especially the trade, and, of course, the transportation and communication.

[Farraj] Mr. al-Lawzi: Some Jordanians are really complaining of the restrictions the Israeli Embassy in Amman is providing in terms of not helping visa process application. How would you see this in terms that Jordan Embassy in Tel Aviv is providing very accessible visas for Israelis?

[Al-Lawzi] Jordan embassies worldwide have always been, you know, helpful and supportive of people coming into Jordan, granting them visas, and this applies on our embassy in Tel Aviv.

Unfortunately, there is, as everybody knows, some delays and some restrictions which we have been in discussions with the Israeli side because this is really damaging and hurting the implementation of agreements such as the transport agreement. If there is not enough visas for people both ways, there will not be any using of any transportation modes, and we have been in discussion with the embassy here and with the Israeli authorities, and they are promising to try to ease up these restrictions and grant visas in a much easier and convenient way for people.

[Farraj] Mr. al-Lawzi: About exit fees from Israel to... [pauses] Jordanians paying exit fees, they're 20 JD's [Jordan dinars]. Is that equivalent to what Jordanians are paying?

[Al-Lawzi] Exit fees for Jordan is governed by the law that applies to all borders of Jordan and airports. This is 4 JD for each Jordanian as exit fees. Each country has certain regulations with comes to those taxes [sentence as heard], and we've tried during the discussion of the agreement and the finalization of the agreement to as much as possible unify these fees and have the same figures, especially in the insurance in the fees. The visas now are unified at 13 JD per visa for both embassies, and we are in the process of monitoring the implementation. And there is the chance every six months to really amend any clause in this agreement, which is reflecting either on the fees or the implementation. [end recording]

Israeli Embassy officials in Amman admitted to the delays in issuing visas to Jordanians, but attributed them to a shortage in Embassy staff and the increasing number of applications. Israeli Embassy spokesman in Amman Shalom Tourgeman said they were working to minimize the problem and would improve their services soon. In a phone interview with the News at Ten, Tourgeman said new applicants will get their visas in five days:

[Begin recording] [Tourgeman] Well in the last [word indistinct] an increasing number of Jordanian applicants have come to the embassy to get visas, and the number has increased a lot as a result of the summer vacation and as a result of the closing of the Jerusalem branch of the Interior Ministry in Israel. And we see that a large number of Jordanians come now to the embassy to seek visas. And this number, we have to deal with something

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like 130 Jordanians a day, and we have to get used to this number of Jordanians. It is true that Jordanians wait more than we want them to wait, and usually they wait now something like between five to 10 days, but we are doing all we can to deal with this problem. And we did two major things: We enlarged the number of the employees in the Consular Section. The number of the employees in the Consular Section right now reached 15 employees, and by the recent days we'll enlarge them by four of five employees. And another act that we are doing is moving by tomorrow morning the Consular section to a new hall in the Forte Grand Hotel. And by that we hope to improve our services and to apply much more visas to much more Jordanians.

[TV Announcer Bayan al-Tall] How long will it take for a Jordanian to get a visa now?

[Tourgeman] Well we have to define between two cases. One is the Jordanians who get visas from the Consular Section in the past and they can get a visa on the same day. The new applicants who come the first time to get visas in the embassy will have to wait something like five days and I hope that this period will be shortened when we move to our new place.

[Al-Tall] Jordanian officials say the restrictions are hindering the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreements?

[Tourgeman] Well, we obliged to give visas to Jordanians up to five days, but we are now dealing with a huge number of applicants and we are doing all we can to minimize the problem and deal with issuing visas as fast as we can in order to [?pass] the peace agreements between Jordan and Israel. We have to remember one thing: We are functioning from a hotel and it's very hard to give good services from a hotel.

[Al-Tall] Yes, I understand that there are discussions going on between Jordanian and Israeli officials regarding the issuing of visas?

[Tourgeman] There is a full cooperation between us and the Jordanians and this is one of the issues that has been negotiated in cooperation with the Jordanians. [end recording]

Jordan: Information Minister on Syria, U.S., Peace Process, Turkey

MM1007103296 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 8-14 Jul 96 p 13

[Interview with Jordanian Information Minister Marwan al- Mu'ashshir by Jihan al-Husayni in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-Husayni] Do you expect a meeting soon between King Husayn and President Hafiz al-Asad?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Jordan hopes that such a meeting will be held soon. But the meeting held on the periphery of the Arab summit should be followed by other meetings at various political and security levels in order to solve problems between us and Syria in the right manner. We do not believe that there are problems with Syria which cannot be solved through frank discussions.

[Al-Husayni] Do you not believe that the United States is almost losing its credibility as an impartial broker? Do we have to wait until after the U.S. elections?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] The United States expressed its commitment to the Madrid foundations which it advocated at the peace conference in 1991 and through Secretary of State Warren Christopher during his recent tour of the region. I do not believe that any party has backtracked on the resolutions of that conference. The important thing is the future practical steps that all the parties should take not only to maintain and honor the achievements made, but also to build on them in order to achieve new agreements. I do not believe that that is linked to a certain period. The negotiations should be resumed on all the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks as soon as possible, and the forces opposed to peace should not be given the opportunity to operate on the Arab scene. And we should test in practice all the parties' commitment to the peace process before we formulate a final judgment on the next stage.

[Al-Husayni] How do you explain the announcement by the chief of staff of the Jordanian Air Force about the existence of Jordanian-Turkish military exercises?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] There are no Jordanian-Turkish military exercises. The chief of staff of the Air Force was talking merely about the possibility of that happening in the future, like any joint exercises between friendly states. But Jordan has no intention or plan to join any military alliances. We are for a policy of cooperation and integration among the region's countries. We do not support the policy of blocs. Besides, Turkey is a friendly state that has long supported Arab issues. There is no reason to create — for imaginary reasons — hostility

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between us over the country's northern border. Turkey is not threatening the Arab states' security in any way. And we are prepared to play a role if we are asked to. I believe that we should maintain good and strong relations with Turkey. The Jordanian and Egyptian stands, which were approved by most Arab states, say that it is not in anyone's interests to harbor hostility toward Turkey and that Turkey cannot be compared with Iran, which is serving terrorism to achieve its political objectives. It has used terrorism and continues to use it in several Arab states, including Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Paper Views Netanyahu's U.S. Visit, Notes Aspired Result

JN0907130896 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Jul 96 p 25

[Editorial: "Netanyahu, Washington, and the Expected Results"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of his visit to Washington after his election as prime minister of Israel, Binyamin Netanyahu confirmed his adherence to the pledges he made during his elections campaign. He said that this visit will not change his deep convictions and that the Arabs will have to accept a compromise solution that meets his position on a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region. Within this framework, he believes that the Palestinians and Syrians should show more leniency so that the march toward a settlement will continue.

Netanyahu's statements did not prevent political observers and analysts from concluding that the visit will yield a set of pledges that he must announce during this visit. The most important of these pledges are to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, who is a basic partner in the settlement process; ease the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip; announce the formation of Israel's delegation to the final status negotiations; and implement all the previous pledges to withdraw from Hebron, in a way that indicates the continuation of the peace process on its Palestinian track, even if its steps are different from what was agreed upon with the previous government.

Moreover, on the eve of the visit, the call by the Israeli and Syrian sides for U.S. President Bill Clinton to apply pressure on them to continue their negotiations indicates the desire of the two sides to continue negotiations. It also shows that the two sides no longer want to resort to any other method to solve their problems. Any obstruction on this path could halt the peace process and make the region fall again onto the claws of violence, which the region initially managed to overcome when the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty was concluded after the Palestinians concluded the Oslo agreement and what followed it with the Israeli state.

As we await the results of Netanyahu's visit to Washington and the meetings with Arab leaders that will follow, we are well aware that peace is the strategic option of the region's peoples. As difficult as it is, achieving peace is the objective we continue to seek and for which we continue to give a lot so that it would be the crowning of a process, which began its first steps and which we know will not stop even if governments change here and there.

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Lebanon: Iranian Envoy Denies Ties 'Lukewarm'

NC0807162696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Ambassador to Lebanon Homayun 'Alizadeh has denied that Lebanese-Iranian relations are lukewarm.

Speaking after meeting Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, he stressed that these relations are developing constantly. He said that the issue of the south is an internal one and part of regional developments. He noted that the United States and Israel are not playing a positive role to achieve stability in the south or the region but are working to cause tension and exploit the conditions in order to impose some policies on the Arab countries.

The Iranian ambassador stressed that there is cooperation, coordination, and understanding between the resistance and the official Lebanese establishments and this is in the interest of the resistance and the Islamic establishments.

Lebanon: Iranian Embassy Denies Tension in Ties

NC0907194996 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iranian Embassy has issued a statement in which it reaffirmed that Iranian-Lebanese relations are founded on historic bases in cultural, social, and political domains. The statement added that any bet by outsiders from overseas to infringe on these ties is a losing one. The statement regretted false reports by certain media organs on tension in ties between Iran and Lebanon.

Lebanon: Nasrallah Warns Netanyahu Not To Invade Lebanon

NC0907125496 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 9 Jul (MENA)—Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah has warned Israel not to try to invade Lebanese territory, declaring that it will pay a very heavy price if it does. He remarked that the time when the Israeli army could make a picnic out of such incursions has gone forever.

Nasrallah, speaking during a religious ceremony, played down threats by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against the Lebanese Resistance, declaring: His threats do not frighten us.

Nasrallah said these threats are worthless.

He called on Netanyahu to learn a moral from former Israeli leaders who had much more experience and waged wars as generals and chiefs of staff but then failed in Lebanon and admitted defeat.

Nasrallah warned Netanyahu: Any sorcery he practices in Lebanon will backfire against the sorcerer [Arabic proverb].

He praised the Islamic Resistance, noting that it knows the Israeli enemy's weaknesses and, armed with the weapon of martyrdom, can storm his fortifications with courage.

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Syria: Damascus Radio Reports on Clinton-Netanyahu News Conference

JN1007073096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—U.S. President Bill Clinton said he informed Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of his commitment to achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He added that the United States will spare no effort to reach this end. At a news conference he held with Netanyahu following their talks, President Clinton said that the objective is to achieve peace and security for the Israeli and the Middle East peoples. Clinton said: Peace should bring security and a better life for all sides. They should go hand in hand in everything, for there can be no peace without security.

Clinton pointed out that he agreed with Netanyahu on the importance of negotiations with Syria. He said: Israel should have full confidence so that we can achieve peace. Although we will continue to work for this, the Israelis, and not anyone else, should make peace.

President Clinton added that the U.S.-Israeli team against the so-called terrorism will hold its first meeting this month, and that cooperation between the two countries will be a basic element within the framework of efforts being exerted on the world level to eradicate terrorism, as he put it.

Clinton said that before the end of the year, his country will supply Israel with information related to the monitoring of the launching of missiles, as he said.

Netanyahu reiterated that Israel's relations with Washington are currently strong, as they have always been, and that they will continue to be so. He thanked President Clinton on the pledge he made to continue strong support for Israel and its security.

Netanyahu admitted that there are differences with the U.S. Administration, but he said that U.S.-Israeli relations are almost unmatched in the international arena, and that they are not linked to persons. Clinton said that despite some differences with Netanyahu, the United States' commitment to Israel and its security will remain strong.

Answering a question on the reduction of U.S. aid to Israel, Clinton said that this is not the right time to discuss any reductions in economic aid his country extends to Israel, and that any reduction in this aid could disrupt Israel's economy.

Regarding the possibility of advancing the peace process, President Clinton said: It is impossible to change the course of history, and going backward will be a grave mistake.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS cited Clinton and Netanyahu as saying that they have a mutual commitment to peace. However, Clinton looked tense when Netanyahu noted that he gives priority to security, and that he is not as eager as his predecessor was to expedite the peace process.

The news agency also quoted Netanyahu as saying that his views on Israel's commitments to the UN resolutions are different from those of the previous Labor-led government. Netanyahu rejected the idea of redeployment of the Israeli Army in Hebron. He said he is not in a hurry to meet with Yasir 'Arafat, adding: I will meet him when I believe it is in Israel's interests.

The AFP quoted Netanyahu as saying he will ease the siege on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip whenever security circumstances permit. He added that the self-rule authority should clearly show its commitment to combat what he termed terrorism.

Netanyahu called on the Palestinian Authority to close its offices in Jerusalem in accordance with the two sides' commitments enshrined in the Oslo agreements.

Syria: AL-BA'TH Analyzes Netanyahu's Washington Talks

JN1007081896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0454 GMT 10 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses the talks Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu held with U.S. President Bill Clinton. It says: As expected, during his talks with President Clinton, Netanyahu did not show even good intentions toward the peace process. The only yes Netanyahu carried with him to the U.S. Administration was not yes to a just and comprehensive peace, but to make his no's more intransigent. He said yes to the continued occupation of the Golan, yes to Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital, and yes to rejecting the establishment of the Palestinian state. This is Netanyahu's new stand. So, does the U.S. Administration have anything new to offer?

AL-BA'TH says: Undoubtedly, the internal situation in the United States, which is mortgaged by the presidential elections, will affect the U.S. role in the peace process until November when it becomes clear who is the new president of the state which committed itself to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Only then can we judge the seriousness of this commitment.

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Concluding its commentary, the paper stresses the importance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on the land-for-peace principle. Netanyahu seeks to torpedo this principle, defying international will during his first official visit as a prime minister to Washington.

Syria: Damascus Urges U.S. To Reject 'Adjustment' Sought by Israel

JN0907144696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 9 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: New Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to the United States, which began today, was surrounded with much propaganda and advance hints that he was going to dictate his policies concerning the peace process and other issues, which were included in the program of the Israeli rightist government, on the U.S. Administration.

The visit was preceded by a statement in which Netanyahu claimed that the Arabs began to adjust to the new reality in Israel. He means that the Arabs began to accept him and his policies that not only conflict with the peace process, but abort the process and the principles on which it was launched. Netanyahu's objective of marketing the idea of Arab adjustment to him is to deceive the U.S. Administration in preparation for obtaining its approval of the idea that the Madrid terms of reference should be abandoned along with the U.S. initiative which considered the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 the basis of realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Netanyahu also wants the U.S. Administration to officially adopt the Israeli policy that replaced the principle of land for peace with the principle of security for peace while considering the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, part of the Biblical land of Israel. Netanyahu made it clear that his government's mission is to continue the Zionist plan of establishing Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Gentlemen: The new rulers of Israel disregard the Arab position that was demonstrated at the Cairo summit, which considers peace a strategic option for the Arabs in accordance with the principles on which the peace process was launched, especially the international legitimacy resolutions and land-for-peace principle. They also disregard the position of the European Union, the industrialized nations, and other members of the international community which adhere to the principles of just and comprehensive peace. Furthermore, when they ignore the will of the international community and refuse to hear anything other than their voices which express hatred, blind fanaticism, and expansionist greed, they do so wagering on U.S. support and on blackmailing it to the point when the United States abandons a policy that is based on the U.S. interests, and replaces it with an Israeli political position. If Netanyahu believes that the U.S. elections represent the best stage for reaping political, economic, military profits from the United States, then the United States, which launched the peace initiative and emphasized its commitment to realizing a just and comprehensive peace, should prove that its commitments cannot be subjected to bargaining or election pressures, and that the adjustment wanted by Netanyahu should be demanded from the other side in order not to close the peace doors and in order to have a positive position similar to that of the Arabs, who consider peace their strategic option, because it realizes the principle of land for peace and ensures equal [mutasawi] security for all in the region.

Syria: Press Calls For Improving Syrian-Turkish Relations

JN1007094996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0454 GMT 10 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary under the headline "Clearing the Syrian-Turkish Relations," the newspaper TISHRIN says: In a cable of congratulations to new Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan on winning a vote of confidence from the Turkish Parliament, President Hafiz al-Asad expressed hope for a new beginning between Syria and Turkey and for improving relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in harmony with the historic ties between them.

The paper adds: This initiative falls within the framework of the Syrian policy and the Arab summit resolutions on improving Arab-Islamic relations and achieving an Islamic solidarity aspired by all Muslims everywhere to safeguard their interests and defend their causes.

TISHRIN notes: The previous governments were the first to escalate tension with Syria and to express open hostility to it. To achieve this, they concluded a military agreement with Israel which allows the latter to use the Turkish military facilities.

The paper says: It is known that Israel's objective behind the agreement is to threaten Syria's security and to besiege it. Necmettin Erbakan strongly criticized the agreement at the time, and said that if he assumes power, he will seek to cancel it. He also said that improving relations with Syria is one of his top priorities.

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The paper adds: Undoubtedly, time is ripe now for a true Turkish turning point toward the neighboring Arab states, and for the revival of Islamic solidarity after the Israeli Government exposed all its cards and Binyamin Netanyahu announced that he will not abide by the bases of the peace process, will not return the occupied Arab territories, and that the Palestinian self-rule applies to the inhabitants, not the land. Turkey, the Islamic state, cannot continue its alliance with Israel after the latter renounced the peace process, flagrantly defied the international community by pledging to expand settlements and to build new ones in the occupied Arab territories, denied the Palestinian people all their rights, and escalated its aggression against fraternal Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: Syria, which is committed to Arab and Islamic solidarity, is ready to cooperate with Turkey to the highest level of cooperation should the Ankara government respond sincerely and responsibly. The two countries have many things in common, whether on the level of history and geography, or on the level of the Islamic bond. What is natural and logical is that Turkey should be among the ranks of Arabs and Muslims to confront Israel's expansionist ambitions and attempts to Judaize Jerusalem.

In one of its commentaries on the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The Syrian-Turkish relations have a good chance to develop continuously based on the historic ties between the two countries and the religious bonds and mutual interests between the two peoples. The two sides have a true desire to establish relations on sound bases and firm cooperation to serve their joint interests. The sense of the historic and Islamic responsibility and ties and good neighborliness are good enough to clear the atmosphere between the two countries.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This should reflect positively, not only on bilateral relations, but also on securing the appropriate circumstances to achieve stability in the region far from the negative effects of the Israeli factor, which was the cause of the tense situation.

Concluding its commentary, the paper says: Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, has always been open for all those who extend to it a hand of friendship, cooperation, and understanding, and seek mutual benefit. Syria believes that constructive dialogue is a means to settle differences and to establish the best relations in a way which serves the interests of both Syria and Turkey and brings them security and stability, proceeding from what President Hafiz al-Asad said about a joint action to establish relations based on mutual trust in the interest of both peoples.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Holds Talks With Ettehad-e Eslami Leaders

LD0907184696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At a meeting with members of the high council of Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union], the esteemed president [of Afghanistan] asked for further cooperation and coordination between groups and parties to resolve the issues affecting the country. BAKHTAR, quoting the presidential press office, reported that this morning the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA] received members of the Ettehad-e Eslami high council.

Our country's esteemed president said: We should try to find a solution to the country's problems through mutual cooperation and assistance. Criticizing and blaming one another does not resolve the issues. History will judge everyone individually. No one can clear himself by saying he was not involved.

Our meeting today takes place at a time when, with the blessing of Almighty God, most of the influential parties and forces in Afghan society have decided to take action against the conspiracies. In the light of this unity and solidarity, I believe all problems will be resolved and Afghanistan can thus take broad steps toward progress, independence, and reconstruction.

The president said: In the world in which we live all issues must be comprehensively assessed. If we do not make ourselves strong we cannot help our people, country, or humanity. For this reason all Afghans must, in accordance with their ability, their piety and commitment, earnestly serve their Islamic society. [passage omitted]

We stick to our commitments, old and new. As far as our move [inviting the opposition to talks] is concerned we proceed with the blessing of Almighty God. Other brothers have also taken steps on this path with pride. We ask those groups and parties who have so far remained outside this process to come and join this axis for the restoration of peace in the country and to remove every sign of hostility and misunderstanding.

At this meeting esteemed Sayd Esrar Padshah spoke on behalf of the high council of Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan. In presenting a report to the Afghan president he said: In past years the Ettehad-e Eslami have always defended the sovereignty of Islam and stood in the first rank of struggle. The existing unity between brethren has produced the hope that we are able to prevent enemies from disrupting this unity by their illegitimate propaganda. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami's Helal Rejects Federation for Afghanistan

LD0907164396 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with Tehran Radio, Engineer Qutbuddin Helal, head of the political commission of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], who took part in a conference in Tehran entitled Afghanistan and Regional Security, replied to the following question: Esteemed Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], has pointed many times to the dangers of federation in Afghanistan. During the conference in Tehran, you also recognized such a measure as dangerous, despite the fact that no formation, institution or any foreign [words indistinct] has raised it. Why did you raise this issue?

Helal said: We perceive this notion among western circles, who want to see a federal system in Afghanistan. They want to convene an international conference on Afghanistan in order to achieve this objective. The federation issue would be raised at such a conference, which would also enjoy UN support. We understand this idea and that is why we reject it. World public opinion should know that it would be impossible in Afghanistan.

The Afghan tribes and nationalities have unbreakable links and it would be difficult to separate them.

At the conference we also heard participants' suggestions. Some said that a federal system would be one way of resolving Afghanistan's problems. They also spoke about the formation of federal governments in the provinces, which would be under the control of the capital. We regard this as a vehicle for disintegration. For this reason, we draw the attention of Afghans and world public opinion to the dangers of this plan.

In reply to a question regarding the Coordination Council's view of the federal government, Helal said: When General Dostam, head of the Jonbesh-e Melli [National Movement], returned from America, he said: There are those who raised the federation concept with me, but I expressed my resolute opposition. That is because this is a conspiracy aimed at the disintegration of Afghanistan and we do not want it.

I do not see anyone in Afghanistan among those advocating jihadi ideology who supports this concept. It suffers from technical shortcomings of which foreigners and the West are unfamiliar. This is absolutely impossible.

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Afghanistan: Taleban Leaders Plan 'Sweeping Attack' on Kabul

LD0907183696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A special session convened by the Taleban leaders in Kandahar last Friday [5 July] stressed that a sweeping attack on Kabul should not be delayed. Reports have also been received on the participation of other important individuals in this session, in addition to the Taleban leaders. The session decided to begin urgent preliminary work for the launch of the attack.

A reliable source in Quetta telephoned this report to the office of the SHAHADAT newspaper. The source added that, in the event of the attack on Kabul failing, the alternative would be to alter the balance in Nangarhar Province in favor of the Taleban. The purpose, on the one hand, is to (?damage) their opponents, and, on the other, to boost the morale of their own personnel and supporters .

The Taleban group have claimed that some important commanders in Fariab and Badghis [provinces controlled by Dostam] have contacted them and that some of them have expressed a readiness to cooperate.

The source added: The Taleban have claimed that an important commander in Fariab, together with his men, have taken position in Herat. Action can thus be taken in Badghis and Fariab provinces whenever they want. The report says that the Taleban were instructed to use all their power in order to change the situation.

Afghanistan: 'Observers' Link Taleban to Killing of Rabbani Commander

LD0907195396 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Tuesday, [9 July] reliable military sources in Afghanistan confirmed a report of the assassination of General 'Ala'eddin Khan, Borhanoddin Rabbani's government commander in Herat.

Our correspondent reported from Kabul that a responsible source in Afghanistan's government and an official close to Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the government's military commander, have confirmed this report. The correspondent said: On Sunday [6 July] evening General 'Ala'eddin was killed in the Pashtun Zarghun District near Herat city by his bodyguard. After joining the Taleban group, the assassin received an award.

General 'Ala'eddin, who was commander of the Afghan government forces in Herat, was one of the famous figures in Afghanistan's jihad. He was among the first to take military action against the forces of the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Observers of the situation in Afghanistan do not rule out the possibility of Taleban involvement in this action.

Afghanistan: Afghan Delegate—U.S. Federation Objectives Fail

LD0907195496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] America has failed in its objectives in Afghanistan, IRNA reported from Kabul citing an interview with Mohammadi, editor of AFGHAN NEWS. Referring to the recent session in Washington he said:

America tried to turn this session into a display of power by groups opposed to the Kabul government. The situation, however, developed in favor of Afghanistan's government. Mohammadi took part in the Washington session on behalf of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, military commander of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan. He added: Foreign intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan was seriously discussed at the session. Pakistan was criticized in this respect.

According to Mohammadi, America raised the issue of vesting power in Mohammad Zahir Shah, former king of Afghanistan, as an effective way to resolve the issue. This met strong reaction from the representatives of the Kabul government and the High Coordination Council. [passage omitted]

India

India: Prime Minister Interviewed on Domestic, International Issues

BK0907150696 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Jul 96

[Interview with Prime Minister Deve Gowda by correspondent H.K. Dua; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for agreeing to meet me. I would like to ask: you have been for 40 long years in politics, mostly in Karnataka, and now you have moved from Karnataka to Delhi. How you are liking this experience?

[Gowda] You see, first of all, I would like to make myself clear to this nation and to the brothers and sisters of this country, my political career started in the year 1952, that is [I was] just about 19 years. Here, my political career started with the first elections. Somehow, I entered politics directly after my school days. I never expected that I am going to national

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politics. Whatever may be my family circumstances, I was confining myself to state politics. In 1947, as a student leader, I went to jail. Somehow from that day onwards, for one reason or the other, I continued in state politics. My first active role was in 1952 first general elections a Congress [party] humble worker. From that day onward I worked in various capacities as panchayat [village council] member, society member, chairman, taluk [revenue area] board member; as the legislative assembly opposition leader, minister, party president — in various capacities. One thing I would like to make myself clear first to the brothers and sisters of my nation, I never have any planned way of political career. Let us be very frank. There is no plan, there is no design of my own. Whatever the circumstance that comes before me, I never use to shirk to shoulder the responsibility under the given situation. That is my nature.

[Dua] You took things in stride in there as to say.

[Gowda] Basically, I am a philosophical man. You cannot expect anything or by expecting anything, you cannot get it. Let us be very frank. Unless you are destined to get that or achieve that objective.

[Dua] When did you first think of being the prime minister of the country?

[Gowda] Never, never in my life I thought over on these lines. For your kind information, through you I would like to make myself clear to the nation. I never expected that I am going to become the chief minister of Karnataka. In 1962, I was forced to leave Congress. You know, Karnataka politics even at that time [word indistinct] with group rivalries. I was a senior to [name indistinct]. He was representing my constituency. And of course, I do not want to give those details. Pundit Jawaharlal Nehruji was here and late Sanjeeva Reddy was the president of Congress and senior leader in the parliament and president of Karnataka Congress. So, I was expelled actually from the Congress. The circumstances were that my name was cleared by their commander and then in fact again...

[Dua, interrupting] Given to the Congress later on.

[Gowda] I will tell you. And then again after three days, it was modified. So that time, on the day when it was cleared by the high command and was announced, normally we started the work — campaign work. Subsequently after, before [words indistinct] the candidature, again it was modified. At that time, my people and the workers compelled me to continue in the election fray. Then I was suspended. So that is how entry to the assembly itself as a rebel Congressman. So, as a rebel Congressman, I entered the assembly. This was undivided Congress. Can anybody expect that I am going become a minister or a chief minister? Why I am giving you this all? So, it was just entry into the assembly only with the compulsion of my party workers. I was just 26 years at that time, just about to complete 27 years. So, when things further ... [pauses] the situation develops and things come, circumstances for and against, which made me to become totally committed or involvement in the problems of the people as and when and things come. In whatever capacity I have worked — as an MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], as an opposition leader, as chairman to various committees — I always had one thing in my mind. I used to give utmost [word indistinct] value for the time. Whatever the responsibility cast on me, I never used to waste my time for any other extracurricular activities. I never created even a single ugly scene in the assembly in my 30 years of political career — 29 and a half years have ended — never.

[Dua] But you do know what happened in the parliament during the last two sessions?

[Gowda] That is why I am coming to the point where I made certain [word indistinct] remarks. I never, in my life... [pauses] I am not either an economist or a highly educated educationist. But when I was destined to enter public life, I tried maintaining decency, dignity, and decorum of the house. I never used a no-confidence motion, the provision of the no-confidence motion, which is the right of the opposition to move a no-confidence motion against the government. I was the leader of the opposition for six years, never I used that weapon; I always....

[Dua, interrupting] Now, Mr. Prime Minister you are the leader of the house.

[Gowda] Yes, I am just now coming to the point. I came to parliament. That was my experience, earlier [words indistinct] experience. For the first time in 89, I was defeated for the first time. Whatever may be the reason, there is no need for me to give explanation for that defeat. Within 18 months again I came to parliament. That is a 18 months; it is a break in my life. I was sitting in the back bench in the parliament. I used to watch the performance.

[Dua] You were here for about three and a half years.

[Gowda] Three and a half years. I used to watch the proceedings very carefully. I might have participated in about a dozen occasions whether in agriculture or in irrigation. When senior leaders used to speak in this area, I used to closely watch. I am very much a pained man today. Our forefathers have framed the constitution. The amount of prominence or the importance given to this highest of the institutions — democratic institutions,

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it pains me to use these words. We are not using the time for the proper job, for the proper work. For this, I am not going to blame even one political party. And this....

[Dua, interrupting] What exactly?

[Gowda] I am just coming to the point. I shared my feelings in the Business Advisory Committee in 1990. I was invited on behalf of the opposition, I mean, Samajwadi Party, headed by Chandra Shekhar. At that time, I told before all [words indistinct]. But anyway, my voice was feeble; I will tell you frankly. Under these circumstances, can any one expect and venture to become the prime minister of this country? I only pose this question before (?all). I want to make myself clear now. Never. I went back to Karnataka and I was forced to become the leader of the party, when the party was given the mandate by the people of Karnataka. And I was there for 18 months. I never even dreamt to come to national politics. Because my area was as I told you; I never even dreamt earlier even to become the chief minister. I entered assembly in adverse circumstances — I gave you the brief background. My whole objective was that when the people have given the mandate for me to run the state for five years, I want to be there and serve my people to the best of my ability. But 1996 — the political scenario had changed. Two years earlier to this 11th Lok Sabha, there was a lot of debates, discussions through media. Political pundits said there will be a hung parliament. When a tallest man for the time being, I mean, former president of India Mr. Venkataraman, once said the coalition era will begin in this country. Knowing this fully well, knowing this fully well, I will tell you frankly, I was preparing myself to send the maximum number of members from the Janata Dal from Karnataka so that I can have my say at the national level for getting my due share to Karnataka's development. I will tell you very frankly, people have blessed me in Karnataka to get 15 seats.

[Dua] That is correct.

[Gowda] They blessed me. My own objective is to, where we are lagging behind in the developmental area, I wanted to see that in the new coalition government, which was bound to come, I should get my due share. This was all my.... [pauses] I use to tell this publicly in fact in the public platforms. But the will of God, I will say, the responsibility....

[Dua, interrupting] Was thrust upon you?

[Gowda] Thrust upon me.

[Dua] Are you enjoying it?

[Gowda] Now I will tell you, I do not say it gives me any excitement or enjoyment, I will tell you very frankly. It worries me, I will tell you very frankly. When I see the picture of the whole country, it is not an excitement or it is not a disappointment. I am not a pessimistic person, when I see the whole atmosphere starting from a morning janata darshan [meet the people program], meeting several cross-sections of the people in this country, or meeting several outsiders — the delegates, the various countries envoys, I will tell you I feel rather very much worried about the problems of the nation.

[Dua] Are you overawed by the...?

[Gowda, interrupting] But mere worrying does not going to find a solution to the problem.

[Dua] Are you overawed by the responsibility? It is pretty heavy.

[Gowda] It is not the question of heavy. For me, a person like me, holds no other extracurricular activities. It is not an overburden for me. But the.... [pauses] where it worries me is: can I able to solve these problems single handedly? Is an issue before [words indistinct] as a prime minister of this country. But I will [word indistinct] you very frankly, today it does not, when I say this, it does not confine to any one political party. In every political party today, there is internal problem. I could watch, I could see, nobody can dare say that there is no internal problem. And, more than 200 MP's are new MP's in this composition (?in this house). There are 33 or 34 parties. Whether it is a single-man party, whether it is the major political party like the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] or the Congress. There are 33 political parties.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister you have one problem. Your government is being backed by 13 parties — some in the government, some outside. Does it not create a problem for you to manage this coalition government?

[Gowda] No, that is where I was about to come. In a house, there are 33 political parties. More than 200 people are the new entrants. I am going to say that they have no parliamentary experience or the parliamentary background. I am not going to say that. In such a situation, I was asked to shoulder the responsibility of the prime minister. As you now mentioned, strictly speaking, about nine political parties — secular parties with 193 members — elected me as their leader. The Congress has unconditionally expressed its support. Nobody went to Congress to request it. Let me be very plain on this issue. On 12 May, before anybody, any political party, thought over what future course to be taken, the Congress itself called its Working Committee and passed a resolution not to support BJP and not to

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form the government and support any third secular front that comes to form the government.

[Dua] Are you sure of the Congress support will last for five years — tenure of the Lok Sabha? You are very sure of it and [words indistinct].

[Gowda] I am. I may honestly tell you when I say this before my countrymen. I do not think Congress is going to betray. You may pose a question to me why.

[Dua] They have done it in the past.

[Gowda] Now, the past circumstances were different. Today, circumstance is when I take a decision, when I go on a right line; it is Congress, the single largest party, to support this government from outside.

[Dua] That is right, 140 seats.

[Gowda] One hundred and forty seats. I don't think they will differ on the decisions which I am going to make. There is no area of difference, I will tell you. In one month, in one month — I stressed upon this, for the first time I called on the chief ministers.

[Dua] That is right.

[Gowda] The chief minister's conference went on for two days. More than 15 hours I sat there. I heard the views of every chief minister. The agenda I myself drew as the prime minister of the country, I told my officers what should be the agenda.

[Dua] And your past experience came handy as the chief minister.

[Gowda] Yes, I gave the agenda to all the chief ministers. These are the issues to be debated in the chief minister's conference and come to some final conclusion. What is the agenda? Even after the 48 years of independence if we are unable to provide the drinking water, if we are unable to provide an all-weather road to a village to have a market access, unable to provide a primary school, unable to provide the health facilities, unable to provide the housing benefits, roof for a roofless family, unable to provide the health care or the essential commodities. Then, what for the very system of democracy should continue. [words indistinct] this question. We have passed 48 years. We have implemented 8 plans — five-year plans

[Dua] Why has the system failed to provide all these facilities to the common man?

[Gowda] I am not going to say the system has failed. We have done something. We have done something. I do not say we have not done anything. But, while spending our resources on various items, naturally, we have gone [word indistinct]

[Dua] Or, is it because of the indifference of the politicians [words indistinct] these problems.

[Gowda] Our ambitious programs. On all directions you want to channelize your resources; nothing can be completed in a time bound program. It goes on dragging from plan to plan, plan to plan. I, with my little experience, tried to identify the immediate task before the country is to provide basic minimum needs. While finalizing the priorities, I gave thrust on seven items. It was placed before the [word indistinct] of chief ministers.

[Dua] But, they all want more money from the center.

[Gowda] I will tell you. First of all, I am glad to say in this complicated political atmosphere all parties — whether it is BJP, whether it is Congress, whether it is communists, whether it is DMK [Dravida Munneta Kazhagam, whether it is Telugu Desam, — all chief ministers unanimously adopted and accepted these priorities. Now next thing is I wanted to decentralize even certain powers. I do not want to centralize. This was the demand of the states not from today, even it was before the Congress [word indistinct].

[Dua] That is correct.

[Gowda] As if I am doing something new. No, I was telling about the outcome of the chief minister's conference. All of them unanimously adopted the minimum program that is identifying the area of the priorities. Seven items have been taken as the basic necessities to the common man. Now about the funding, your good self has asked me a question. About funding, I have already taken the decision to convene the meeting of the chief ministers again in the month of August and what the money that is being [word indistinct] to each program, that would be kept at the disposal of the states. I do not want to intervene.

[Dua] But, how does it reach the people?

[Gowda] I am, I am coming to the point. Now, the issue is whether that money is going to be spent for the purpose for which it is going to be allotted.

[Dua] Yes.

[Gowda] I hundred percent rely upon my chief ministers irrespective of political parties. One man, as I told you a little earlier, cannot find out the solution to the problem. See, in a system like this — in a federal character — both the chief ministers and the prime minister should work as a job with joint responsibility so that we are here to deliver goods to the common man, to the needy person. I do not think they will try to shift from the responsibility. I have full confidence in them. But for

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the purpose of making myself sure about the end result, I will.... [pauses] some of the chief ministers have suggested this idea, let there be a joint coordination committee to monitor or to make the evaluation about the performance and find out the real benefits, whether they have reached the beneficiary or the common man. I will even try to monitor myself under the direct supervision of the prime minister or PMO's [Prime Minister's Office]. I will have a missionary to go to the every state once in a quarter and find out about the field progress, not the expenditure on money side; that is not important for me.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, one of the worries which the people have in their mind is and it is pretty widespread, and I am sure you are aware of it, whether your government can be stable? This is mainly because it is dependent on support of a large number of parties and also on the support from outside of the Congress Party. You said earlier the Congress Party is not going to betray you. But the experience has not been.... [pauses] Others have experienced a totally different kind of Congress Party which pulled the rug from two other governments and brought it down. And, they have been in power most of the time since independence except for short breaks. And Congress Party is not used to be out of power. Cannot the situation arise again and they can bring down your government or create instability?

[Gowda] Please, please, let me make myself clear to all those people who express this doubt. The mandate of the people is itself is for a coalition government. What has happened earlier, there is no question of any comparison. Let us understand this point.

[Dua] Right.

[Gowda] The mandate of the people is for a secular front and today the nine or 10 political parties were forced to take a decision to form the government, because the Congress itself has come out categorically that we are not going to support BJP and we want to support the Third Front.

[Dua] Yes, but the political parties often forget the mandate which has been given by the people.

[Gowda] No, I don't think, I don't think today. Nobody is going to betray the people's mandate. The people's mandate is for a coalition government — coalition, secular, democratic government — today. The people have given the mandate. I do not think, they will, anybody can dare to betray. And, that is why I have made it very clear there is no question of such fear in my mind and there should not be any fear in the mind of the common man and the public. That is why, I must tell very frankly not only inside the house, not by passing a resolution [words indistinct] elected representative of India. Not only inside the house but also outside the house, the president of the Congress — the former prime minister [Narasimha Rao] — has made it clear this government is strong compared to even to Rajiv Gandhi's government because 193 is the United Front membership and 140 the Congress membership, it comes 330 or 333. That is why, he has made it several times clear both inside and outside the house that there will be no question of any instability.

[Dua] Are you having problems in managing this coalition in both in the context of formation of policies or making appointments or in your cabinet making?

[Gowda] I will tell you very frankly there is no question of any pressure from any quarter. That is a frank conversation. There is no question of any problem about the programs. The common minimum program which was unanimously accepted, I tell you not by mere nine or 10 political parties. Even I must draw the attention of the people at large that almost all the editorials of the prominent papers by highlighting one or two omission and commission, overall there is a welcome on the common minimum program. And, this program is not going to create any hitch. This program which is a guideline for me. I will work within the ambit of the program.

[Dua] Won't the Congress be doing backseat driving, being outside power structure and try to dictate?

[Gowda] No, I will tell you, I will tell you very frankly. Till today, there is no such attempt from the Congress side.

[Dua] What about within the coalition partners? There are two major issues which came. One was about restructure of the government employees economic program and you had to make certain amendment because the Communist Party-Marxist protested. Then you have come out with petrol price hikes and there was a protest both from the Congress Party from outside and from among the coalition partners, and you had to make some revision at least for the diesel.

[Gowda] No, may I tell you very frankly. In the issue of this so-called administered price on oil pool account, even in the past, even (?with) monolithic party, one-party rule, the administered prices [words indistinct] are some of the taxations what was announced in the budget. When once it has been discussed on the floor of the house or outside, there were several instances of revising to the demands of the people. There are, I can quote, any number of instances.

[Dua] To the extent of 30 percent — 25 to 30 percent.

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[Gowda] Just one second. Only on one item. After knowing the feelings of the people, we wanted to have the revision in diesel products where we had taken the decision to give 30 percent price rise. We have brought it down to 15 percent. That is 50 percent reduction.

[Dua] But the housewives are getting upset about the cooking gas.

[Gowda] I do agree. I know their feelings.

[Dua] Those who are using scooters and cars, they are upset about the [word indistinct] prices.

[Gowda] I do not want to shirk the responsibility of my government taking the decision. They [people] must also cooperate with me. Even after this revision, we are giving 62 rupees 55 paise subsidy on a gas cylinder. The increase is hardly 26 rupees. I know that even that is overburden. Knowing fully well, I must also place the facts before the public. We have to clear the dues to the tune of 6,000 crores [rupees] on the oil pool account itself. I do not want to blame the previous government. This is in not in one month I have created this suggestion. Now, if I do not clear these dues, if the supply is not continued, then there will be lot of problems going to be faced by the users of petroleum products and gas cylinders. There will be no regular supplies because of default in the regular payments, in clearing our dues. Much more serious problem is going to crop up, when once the shortage is there — the non-supply of these products. And, this year alone on oil pool account itself, we have to clear the bill to the tune of 27,000 crore [rupees] — our import bill. Last year it was 25,000 crores. Our projection today is 27,000 crore. Under this situation, I with folded hands, I request the people, who today have been little taxed, that is those who use petrol for their scooters, for their cars, or my sisters who are using gas, that they have to share little overburden. They should also.... [pauses] I think they will understand under what circumstances these steps have been taken. I need their cooperation. But the other task is much more bigger task. I cannot support it from the general budget this oil pool account. There is no budget to support. And, I have not taken the decision of even increasing, to increase one paise on kerosene product, because that is poor man's product which is going to be used by common men, slum dwellers, villagers, poor people. I have not even touched that area where even the proposal was there. Even after this, I must carry the burden of about 9,000 to 10,000 crores. Even after this. So, I my countrymen should cooperate to overcome the situation that has been created today.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, you visited Kashmir on Saturday. [6 July] After several years, a prime minister has visited Kashmir. How do you assess the present situation?

[Gowda] I must tell you very frankly. My purpose of visit was to see the flood affected areas first. At the same time I used this opportunity to meet our political parties. One major development, which I could see, which I witnessed there, people want peace. I stress on this point. Today, every political party with one voice, they said: we want elections — early election to [state] assembly, and we want our own government to be established to further strengthen peace in the valley.

[Dua] So when you are going to hold the assembly elections?

[Gowda] I am going to hold the elections very soon. Tomorrow I am going to meet all the leaders of various political parties. And, I think when I move the bill for the extension of the time [president's rule in Kashmir], very short period of extension.

[Dua] Extension of the president's rule?

[Gowda] President's rule. I will simultaneously announce the dates. I am not going to now discuss about the details on the issue of autonomy — whether the former prime minister has said about the greater autonomy, whether the present defense minister has said or our United Front common minimum program has said about the autonomy. To discuss these points, it is more credible, more advantageous to discuss with the elected government. It all depends upon how the elected government wants. If they want to involve the other political parties which may not enter the assembly at that time, it is up to them. So, first of all, the elected government will have more people's mandate to discuss on such vital matters. I will take them into confidence. At that time if it is necessary to take the other political parties — if they have not got any representation inside the house, if the elected government wants them to involve, then I will try to cooperate with the elected government, according to their wishes.

[Dua] Do you have fear the militants might disrupt the process of elections, assembly elections?

[Gowda] In my opinion, even some of the militants or their leaders, have realized that peace is the only solution for the prosperity of J and K [Jammu and Kashmir] today. That is what I have noticed. There is a change of heart.

[Dua] Mr. prime minister. The Pakistan prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, sent a message somewhat surprisingly conciliatory when you took over as prime minister. You replied in very positive terms. Is it going to lead to the talks between the two countries, and if so, at what level?

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[Gowda] First of all, I will like to make myself clear. This government's ambition is — the desire is, we want to maintain a cordial relationship with all our neighbors. Whether it is Pakistan, whether it is Nepal, whether it is Bangladesh. And, I will tell you very frankly, after I received the message when I assumed the office of the prime minister, I replied: Let there be a dialogue between the foreign secretaries level [words indistinct] and then let higher people meet and I am waiting for further reaction from Pakistan.

[Dua] Are you hopeful for a positive reaction. What are the indications coming from there?

[Gowda] I am not going to have any doubt in my mind. The way in which they tried to come out in their message to have a... [pauses] to begin a new era about the friendly relationship between the two countries. I do not think they will go back again. And I will tell you I have already written to them that let there be a discussion among the secretaries — the official level discussion. That will pave the way for further discussion. I think we will try on those lines.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to draw your attention to what has happened at Geneva on the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] question. India has not signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

[Gowda] We have already made our point very clear on this issue. I will tell you very frankly. There is no question of changing our stand.

[Dua] So that we are not going to sign when the conference resumes in Geneva?

[Gowda] The stand is not going to be changed.

[Dua] Are you anticipating pressures from nuclear weapons states on India, if we do not sign?

[Gowda] Any pressure from any quarter, so far as the security of the country is concerned, there will be no compromise. Let there be any pressure, I will withstand that pressure.

[Dua] Sir, there is an impression in the country for quite some time now that we have gone slow on missile programs, particularly in reference to Agni and Prithvi missile programs.

[Gowda] There is no question of any misapprehension [as heard]. I have given free hand to my scientists. I will tell you very frankly. They will proceed with their job without any interference from political side. I only try to consult with them. There is no question of interference due to pressure from any side.

[Dua] Will you provide enough money for these programs?

[Gowda] Whatever the minimum requirement is there, within our limited budget, we will try to provide them. We wanted to reduce the defense budget as far as possible, but at the same time one word I would like to say, even with our resource constraints, I do not want to have any type of the problem to protect the country's security. Even the resource constraint — I am having problem, I will take care of the requirement.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, there is a widespread concern in the country about the growing corruption in our political and administrative steps. What exactly you are going to do?

[Gowda] I totally agree with you. There is no question of any two opinions on that. This is the order of the day. That is why in our common minimum program we have already promised the nation that we are going to bring a lokpal [ombudsman] bill wherein the prime minister will also be involved and subjected to the enquiry. And, in the current session itself, I would move the bill and see that this bill comes into force very soon, hopefully.

[Dua] What are you going to do about some of the prominent cases like urea scandal?

[Gowda] No, I will tell you very frankly. I have already made it clear there is no question of any political witch hunting. There is no question of political vendetta. Whatever issues can be investigated, the agency is there, the law is there. It will take its own course. I am not going to interfere in the independence of the investigation agency. I will act in accordance with the law of the land.

[Dua] Including about Chadraswamy [Narasimha Rao's guru] and his followers?

[Gowda] Whatever it may me. Whether it is A or B or C. I am not going to take things on the basis of the personalities. On the basis of merits and demerits, it will take its own course.

[Dua] There have been suggestions during the last few months that the Central Bureau of Investigation — the CBI — should be made autonomous from the decision-makers so that they can pursue their investigation without political interference.

[Gowda] When we are going to introduce a new bill, lokpal bill, what more you want. There ends the matter. When you are going to introduce a lokpal bill, which has been the demand of every political party, there ends the matter. They must have the belief in their own system if they are going to (?create in) the next parliament.

[Dua] Mr. Prime Minister, are you feeling worried about the way political system is going from bad to worst and the people have been criticizing the system.

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[Gowda] I do agree. I hundred percent agree with you. I hundred percent share that feelings. The standards, the values have deteriorated — deteriorated to an irreparable situation. Now, there is no single individual can restore this damage. A time was there was when father of the nation gives a call, the whole country used to stand behind him. But of course he was a top leader. I do not think any top leader now in this country has got that much of credibility. I well tell you very frankly. I am a [word indistinct]. When I want to share with my countrymen, I do not want to have any fear, there is no such a tall leader in this country.

[Dua] Why we do not have tall leaders now.

[Gowda] No, no, no. I will tell you frankly. Whoever made claim that I am the tallest man, I am sorry to say that today the people in various walks of life — whether it is people who are in public life, people in [words indistinct] that is our media, the people who are in bureaucracy, people who are in judiciary — we should all collectively try to restore [words indistinct] damage that has happened to our system. Collectively, people should work and attempt to find out some solution to the present crisis.

[Dua] There has been suggestions that there should be a national government in the country so that everybody should cooperate at this crucial juncture. I am in favor of that type of suggestion.

[Gowda] I am not for or against it. I will tell you very frankly what is the methodology. What is the process for a national government? How? See, our forefathers when they gave such a sacred document — our constitution, all the safeguards they have taken because if [words indistinct] for 48 years, we are responsible for this type of political confusion. If you try to restore back the fall in our standards, I am hundred percent sure that the very system and our constitution will deliver goods. There is no problem. There is no need of any change in the present system.

[Dua] Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister, for sparing so much time for me.

[Gowda] I must equally thank you for having given me the opportunity to share my feelings with my countrymen. It is the right opportunity; I am really happy.

[Dua] Thank you very much.

India: Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Resigns

BK1007092396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Mohammad Taslimuddin, has resigned. The president accepted his resignation last night on the advice of the prime minister. In his letter, Mr. Taslimuddin said that he would like to be relieved of his post until he is cleared of certain charges leveled against him.

India: New Minister of State for Home Affairs Sworn In

BK1007091096 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Mohammad Maqbul Dar, Janata Dal MP from Jammu and Kashmir, has been inducted into the union council of ministers as minister of state. Mr. Beni Prasad Verma, the minister of state for communications, has been elevated to the cabinet rank.

The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, administered them the oath of office and secrecy at a simple function in Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] this morning. The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan; the prime minister, Mr. Deve Gowda; and some of this cabinet colleagues were present.

Later, Mr. Deve Gowda told newsmen that Mr. Verma will continue to hold the portfolio of communications. Mr. Dar will be the minister of state for home affairs. The prime minister declined to comment on the court's summons to the former prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. Mr. Gowda, however, asserted that it will have no impact on the stability of his government.

The strength of the union council of ministers remains at 38 as Mr. Mohammad Taslimuddin had resigned last night.

Mr. Maqbul Dar told newsmen that he will give priority to the restoration of peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

India: Congress Spokesman Rules Out Rao's Resignation

BK1007092596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress today ruled out Mr. Narasimha Rao resigning as party president in the wake of a Delhi court's summons to him in the Lakhubhai Pathak cheating case. The party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi that it has been decided to move an appeal against the chief

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metropolitan magistrate's order. Mr. Gadgil said there is no demand for a change of leadership in the party.

The Congress general secretary, Mr. B.P. Maurya, said the party will move the High Court in the case within a couple of days.

Iran

Iran: Rowhani—Iran Expects Swift Inquiry Into Border Violation

LD0907185896 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani here on Tuesday [9 July] expressed deep concern over Turkey's violation of Iranian airspace and its rockets on Iranian residential areas bordering Turkey. Rowhani, in his meeting with visiting Turkish deputy interior minister, Erol Caker, said the aggression of several Turkish helicopters which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of several Iranian nationals, have been followed with concern and regret by the Iranian nation and government amid the simmering wrath of the border dwellers.

He said Iran naturally expects a speedy probe of the whole affair by Turkey and compensation for the damage caused by the attack.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani, who is also the secretary of the Supreme Nations Security Council (SNSC) called for an immediate dispatch of a Turkish team of experts to the site of the June 26 attack.

He expected Turkish interior ministry officials to take appropriate measures for compensation of the deadly incident and to adopt preventive measures against repetition of such events in future. Six civilians were martyred and 15 others injured when Turkish helicopter gunships released rockets on Iran's Silvana region in West Azarbaijan province.

Earlier in 1994, Turkey had tendered an official apology to Iran and compensated for the damages, when its jetfighter fired on civilians on the Iranian side of the border near Sardasht killing nine civilians and injuring several others.

Rowhani, in reference to the Turkish-israeli military accord, said the agreement has not only caused anxiety in the region, the world of Islam and the Arab states, but also the Muslim people of Turkey are worried about the consequances of the deal. "If the accord were to be put to a public opinion poll in Turkey, over 90 percent of the Turkish people would cast negative votes against it," he told the Turkish official.

The SNSC secretary described Israel as a "serious threat to all regional countries" and an "ominous omen which has brought killing, aggression, unrest and numerous difficulties for the people of the region since its inception." He said, "it was crystal clear for Iran that all the peace slogans in this regard were nothing more than a political and propaganda ploy, but the assuming of power by the Likud Party has made everything more obvious since the new regime practically ignores all the accords signed by the former regime of the Zionist entity."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani told the Turkish official that Islam lays emphasis on peace and co-existence and that Islamic states should give such a practical example of Islam that its revival and the power of Muslims is not a threat to the interests of other nations but is only against those who seek to aggress upon or dominate Islamic states. "The enemies of Iran and Turkey do not like close and cordial ties between the two countries, therefore, the two nations are required to exercise vigilance to foil the plots of their common enemies," he added.

The Iranian official said that the cordial and historical relations between Iran and Turkey especially after the victory of the islamic revolution have been greatly developed, and the exchange of visits by ranking officials especially the presidents of Iran and Turkey, have further consolidated the bilateral ties. In view of the fact that Iran is one of the best routes for Turkey to Central and Southeast Asia while Turkey is Iranian passage to the west and Europe, coupled with the geopolitical and common Islamic culture of the two nations, what is required are warm and sincere relations between Tehran and Ankara, added Rowhani.

He hoped that relations between the two countries would further develop in good neighbourly peace and trust, following the formation of the new government in Turkey.

In reply, the Turkish deputy interior minister said that relations between the two nations are based on mutual respect, friendship and non-interference in each other's affairs.

Cakir expressed condolence to the Iranian nation on the border incident and said Turkey would spare no effort in investigating the attack. He said friendship between the two nations is based on national resolve and it would continue. He said 99 percent of the Turkish population is Muslim and that Islam has a special status in Turkish culture. Caker called for further development of Tehran-Ankara cooperation in all areas especially in trade and commerce.

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Iran: Velayati—Turkish Border Officials Must Act With Care

LD0907191996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting this afternoon with the Turkish deputy interior minister, [Foreign Minister] Mr. Velayati said: The Turkish government must remind its border officials to act with the necessary care and caution when dealing with Iran's border areas, so as to prevent incidents that may give rise to suspicions, doubts, and ambiguities, none of which would be in the interest of Turkey. This is because maintaining border security requires mutual trust.

Mr. Velayati added that defending the security of the Islamic homeland and its citizens is one of the firm policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Turkish deputy interior minister, who has come to Tehran to carefully review and study the recent attacks by Turkish helicopters on our country's border areas [26 June 96] and also to carry out the necessary security coordinations, responded by stressing his government's strong desire to further expand and enhance its ties with Iran.

Moreover, he assured his host that noninterference in the affairs of other countries was at the heart of Turkey's foreign policy. He said: Turkey has a strong resolve to have good neighborly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and cordial relations with all Islamic states and regional countries.

He added: Turkey has never intended to violate Iran's borders and undermine its security. If such incidents have occurred, the Turkish government's will and intention [qasd va eradeh] has certainly not been behind them. We are sincerely prepared to carry out the necessary investigations to fully clarify the issue.

In the meeting, Mr. Velayati referred to the shared destiny of the two neighboring countries and their good neighborly ties. He offered his congratulations on the formation of Turkey's new government.

Mr. Velayati, moreover, described as positive the declared policies of [Turkish Prime Minister] Mr. [Necmettin] Erbakan regarding good relations with all neighboring countries and Muslim states.

A technical-military team made up of representatives from both countries is due to visit the site of the border incident tomorrow [10 July 96]. The team will investigate the incident, in which a number of our compatriots were martyred as a result of the incursion of Turkish military helicopters into Iranian airspace.

Iran: Besharati—Iran 'Angry' Over Border Violation

LD0907192596 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in his meeting with Deputy Turkish Interior Minister Erol Caker here today called on Ankara to officially apologize and pay compensation to Iran for violation of Iranian airspace by its military helicopters on June 26.

"The Iranian people are very much angry over the incident, and the government of the Islamic Republic which is pursuing the issue awaits a satisfactory answer from the Turkish government," said Besharati. Iran, said Besharati, likes to see the two countries' common border as a "border of peace and friendship", but, he regretted, "unfortunately, Turkish measures could damage this friendship and expansion of bilateral ties."

"If Turkey wants good relations with Iran, it should avoid all such acts," he added.

Saying that support for opponents of governments will not benefit anybody, Besharati made it clear: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always condemned any kind of terrorist activities since we ourselves are the prime victim of terrorism in the world."

Caker in reply, referred to the two countries' historic relations and friendship and expressed hope that through common efforts the two sides will be able to remove the obstacles in the way of full-fledged expansion of bilateral relations.

On Ankara's foreign policy country, Caker said that it is based on mutual respect and good neighbourly relations. "We are ready to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran on security and border issues in the framework of bilateral accords," he added.

Regarding the violation of Iranian airspace by Turkish helicopters on 26 June in the Silvana region of West Azarbaijan which resulted in the death of six Iranian civilians and wounding of 15 others, the Turkish official said that his country understands the sensitiveness of the Iranian government in this regard.

He said the issue would be probed by the Turkish military and by the joint security session of the countries, and after the matter becomes clear those responsible for the incident would be punished.

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Iran: Editorial Views New Turkish Premier's Remarks on Israel

LD0807121496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 4 Jul 96 pp1, 13

[Editorial article in the "Viewpoint" column: "Encouraging Words From Erbakan, But Region Expects More"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Encouraging words have been emerging from Ankara since last Friday [28 June] when Welfare Party (RP) leader Necmettin Erbakan became prime minister. But the people of this region expect more lucid stances from him on certain issues.

In very bold and refreshing move, Erbakan took Israel to task and asked the occupying regime to pull back from occupied territories, including the Golan Heights.

Prime Minister Erbakan made this request while talking to visiting US Under-Secretary for Political Affairs at the State Department, Peter Tarnoff, according to an AFP dispatch.

Sending a calming message to all those who believe that a just stand on national and international issues must be adopted no matter what the cost, Erbakan asked Israel to "abide by the UN resolutions and withdraw from all occupied territories including the Golan Heights."

Extremist Likud Party Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's hardline policy statements have thrown the principle of land-for-peace into the doldrums and cast doubts over the future of the Middle East peace process.

Erbakan's words were refreshing because most of the Turkish leaders in the past remained indifferent to the treacherous activities and postures of the Zionist regime in the Middle East.

Erbakan also made clear to the US official that Turkey will cultivate closer ties with the Muslim states of the Middle East for the region's stability.

If the dream — envisioned by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, 16 years ago — materializes to the fullest extent, then Islam will retrieve its lost glory and prestige. Islam would then be better able to serve mankind.

True, there is a prickly path ahead for trade, not only for Muslim states but for all Third World countries, to forge a unified stance against unlawful or unjust manoeuvres by international oppressors. But the fact is that a united front against suppressive developed nations is the only solution to most of the problems being encountered by the Third World. The sooner the Third World realizes this, the better.

And more lucid statements by Erbakan? In February Turkey and Israel signed a mysterious military agreement which covers a variety of issues, some of them are still to be revealed to regional countries.

What we know so far is that the Ankara-Tel Aviv Accord gives Israel access to Turkey's land, air and water routes. Outlining his government's plan on 29th June, Erbakan said his government will stay committed to all international conventions, but warned that "those provisions which are against our national interests and security will not be implemented."

No need to remind Prime Minister Erbakan that Israel cannot and should not be trusted. The real face of Israel is no longer a secret, and those countries which incorrectly think that peace with Zionist regime is possible, now face a great disillusionment.

Erbakan shoulders historical responsibilities and the people in the Middle East expect that Turkey will focus on regional and Third World interests rather than the welfare of the West.

Iran: Hamas Official Interviewed

96LH0216A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Apr 96 p 12

[Interview with Abu Hamadan, HAMAS political official, by ETTELA'AT; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the HAMAS Organization's fourth bombing operation in Tel Aviv, many views and positions were expressed throughout the world. Because of the sensitivity of public opinion and since the responsibility and mission of newspapers is to convey issues and news and find the roots, causes, and motives for events and incidents for the understanding and awareness of the people, we decided to arrange an interview with one of the insiders in the HAMAS Organization.

In the final days of the month of Esfand 1374 [20 February - 19 March 1996], Abu Hamadan, a member of the HAMAS Political Branch, was interviewed by our correspondent, the details of which are now before you.

In view of the fact that in those days it was not possible to print this interview because of the amount of news and other issues, we therefore thought it permissible in this way to draw the attention of our readers to the time of this interview, which was in the second half of the month of Esfand last year.

What you will read is an honest effort to reflect the message and desires of the HAMAS Organization without taking any positions.

It is clear that the reflection of the aforementioned statements and answers is seen as the principle of the

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trust of the responsibilities of a newspaper and reporting, and judgment will be left solely to the readers.

[ETTELA'AT] In recent weeks we have seen four bombing operations by HAMAS. How are we to evaluate these measures, and what are we to call them?

[Hamadan] The truth of the matter is that everyone who takes a reasonable view of the issue of the Palestinian nation and the Palestine case knows why these operations are taking place and what they are called. There is no doubt that the occupation of Palestine has remained unchanged from the beginning until now. As long as this occupation continues, the right to resist by any means possible will remain a complete and permanent right for the nation of Palestine. These operations are thus prominent instances of the struggles of the nation of Palestine, which will continue until its national and ethnic goals are achieved, meaning the liberation of Palestine. I call these operations resistance to the occupation, operations that many nations of the world have experienced in the face of occupiers.

[ETTELA'AT] Governments that support Israel and its propaganda organizations call these operations terrorism and the HAMAS Organization terrorists. Does HAMAS have an answer to this?

[Hamadan] I am astonished by these governments and organizations because they use a word upon whose meaning they are not in agreement. If we ask them the definition of the word "terrorism," each one has an answer that conflicts with the other answers. Now I ask you, in truth, what is terrorism? Is resisting occupation terrorism, or is occupation itself considered another way of saying terrorism? Does terrorism consist of living with glory and nobility, or is it oppression against others and oppressive government? Does terrorism consist of adopting specific beliefs without any kind of compulsion, or is imposing beliefs on others by force?

[ETTELA'AT] Since answering questions is in conflict with what I have to say, I ask your permission to let me limit myself to reflecting your views and remarks.

[Hamadan] I believe that terrorism in the region has its roots in this very Zionist regime. This regime is the direct agent of occupation, destruction, killing, and even intellectual terrorism to the extent that it prevents the naming of Palestinian children by special names. More importantly, they teach their children that all non-Jewish people were created to serve the Zionists. Their children believe that these things are taught in the Torah. Even the defenders of the Zionists are considered to be no more than their slaves and servants. Are not such teachings considered to be conspicuous proofs of terrorism?

It would be appropriate for those who consider resistance to occupation and occupiers to listen to the words of the ones resisting and to search for the truth. They must realize that the Zionists have taken terrorism beyond the level of training and taken it to the point of destroying schools, mosques, and homes.

[ETTELA'AT] How are the targets attacked by HAMAS chosen, and are non-military people also among the designated targets?

[Hamadan] The military branch of the HAMAS movement, meaning the 'Ezoldin Qasam, chooses its targets in the framework of the institutions of the occupiers under the name of the Zionist Army. There is no doubt that the primary and the largest part of the operations is directed against military forces because it is these forces who engage directly in the killing of the people of Palestine. Whoever looks carefully at the history of the resistance of the nation of Palestine understands that the resistance against the occupation has always taken shape along these very lines.

[ETTELA'AT] However, non-military people have also been hurt in the course of these things. What do you have to say about this?

[Hamadan] Since the beginning, the occupiers have always directed their oppression, torment, and killing against non-military citizens. I will not speak of Kofr Qasem, Dir Yasin, or Sabra and Chatila, but I will mention the most recent historical evidence. In the killing of the praying people at the Abraham Mosque at the city of al-Khalil, they were praying. They had no weapons of any kind and they were taking no action of any kind against the Zionists.

Suddenly they were faced with an armed attack by an officer in the Zionist army, who opened fire and martyred 29 people. We did not hear any of the opponents of terrorism saying that this act was a terrorist operation. Some say this was an individual act, but I say it was not an individual, because the grave of this officer has now become a pilgrimage for many Zionists, even outside Palestine, and bags of soil from his grave are being sold for $20 each. To these things I must also add the closing of mosques, the blasting of homes, the prevention of treatment of difficult cases in the hospitals, the prohibition on digging wells, and agriculture on lands belonging to Palestinians. This is full-scale war against the citizens of Palestine, which has nothing to do with military affairs.

I must therefore say that the price of this war must not be paid solely by the nation of Palestine. It is appropriate for the occupying enemy to know that this warfare is also open against itself. Moreover, the admission by the

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Zionists themselves must be kept in mind that more than half of those killed in the recent operations were Zionist military forces. Of course in their propaganda they say that a woman or a child has been killed, while they hide the fact that this woman or child were officers and soldiers in the Zionist army.

[ETTELA'AT] How far will HAMAS take the military phase?

[Hamadan] The nation of Palestine is pursuing a goal upon which everyone is in agreement, and that is the liberation of the land of Palestine and the establishment of an independent government. Therefore, as long as the occupation continues, this trend will also continue. It is possible that by intensifying the security pressures or through killings, strikes, and threats the occupiers will succeed in temporarily stopping this trend, but in the long run they will not succeed, because the basic factor in the explosion of the resistance is the occupation. They must realize that those who ignited the war and the revolution of stones and who presented many martyrs in so doing were the ones who came into the world in the shadow of the occupation. However, the idea of the resistance has never been forgotten. We are striving to make this idea endure, and the entire nation of Palestine is with us on this path.

[ETTELA'AT] You mentioned the nation of Palestine. It must be kept in mind that non-Muslims also live in that land. Do they also support HAMAS and the armed struggles?

[Hamadan] All of the children of Palestine are involved in the resistance against the occupiers. Therefore, other forms of religious law cannot be exceptions to involvement in the struggle. In this, the Christians also are participating extensively in the operations against the occupiers. We cannot forget the resistance of the children of the Christian region of Beit Sahur. The presence of the Christian children of Palestine in the jails of the Zionist occupying regime is also unforgettable; these individuals were arrested at the end of operations since the time the occupation first took over the land. Our Christian compatriots have also suffered continuously under the rule of the occupiers, and like the Muslims, they have also faced problems, even in relation to their worship and performance of religious obligations. Since the occupiers first arrived, Christians have never been able to freely conduct their Christmas rites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem in the way they would like. Their places of worship also, like the Muslim mosques, have been confiscated by the Zionists. The Palestinian Christians are part of the nation of Palestine and they demand the liberation of their land.

[ETTELA'AT] Why do you not pursue negotiations? Would you not achieve more positive results through talks?

[Hamadan] Talks with whom and on what basis? Talks should be based on a series of principles and rules. Can you talk with a person who has a knife to your throat and is threatening to kill you?

The nation of Palestine now has the knife of occupation at its throat, and in this situation the president of the government of the occupiers wants to talk. This is unreasonable. Concerning what subject should one talk with the occupiers? The first thing that the people of the world and the occupiers must realize is that what exists in Palestine is an occupying entity. Second, this occupation will never continue. If HAMAS is to talk with the occupiers, it will be only on one basis, and that is that they acknowledge that they have occupied our land with hostility and oppression and say they are prepared to leave our occupied land.

[ETTELA'AT] However, Yasir 'Arafat has promised an independent Palestinian government whose capital will be Jerusalem. Does HAMAS want something more than this?

[Hamadan] 'Arafat claims such a government, but he must have the executive agents and the basic foundations for forming such a government. The Oslo Treaty and the agreements that exist between him and the Zionist government will never lead to the formation of an independent Palestinian government, nor will it lead to the liberation of the lands of Palestine. The chief of the Israeli Army staff meets with 'Arafat and gives him the names of detainees and the places that must be closed, and 'Arafat has no choice but to accept and implement. How can this person form an independent government?

What 'Arafat is doing is making efforts to delude the nation of Palestine and the people of the world through propaganda. I am trying to speak based on a series of truths. The pacts between 'Arafat and the Zionists are based on four main focal points, Jerusalem, the return of refugees, the removal of the Jewish settlements. [as published] Now two-thirds of the people of Palestine are outside of Palestine. Israel is not agreeing to any right for them to return. With regard to the Jewish settlements, Yusi Bilin has emphasized that the settlements will remain just as before. Therefore, all the problems remain the same. So what has happened in all this? In our view, what has happened is the re-establishment of the occupying army in our land.

[ETTELA'AT] Then what is the ultimate goal of HAMAS?

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[Hamadan] What we want is what is wanted by every free person and nation living in this world. We want to be free, and we want the occupation removed from our land. This is our natural right and we must have it. Everyone rejects this right with regard to the nation of Palestine. In reality, this right has been denied to all nations. In history we have seen that the French and even the Americans have resisted occupation. We are in the service of these human goals, and without exception they are among the rights of the nation of Palestine. We are seeking independence and freedom for our own land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian government.

We want to stop that occupation and we want an end to the pressure of detaining the children of Palestine. Finally, there is the matter of the way the domination of Palestine is conducted. In each one of these cases, there has always been talk of the Palestinians, not about the nation or the government of Palestine. Therefore, these treaties speak of a people who live in part of a framework called the government of Israel, a people who must submit to the laws of this government.

These people are living under the banner of an aggregate called the autonomous government whose president is Yasir 'Arafat. The autonomous government is dependent on a larger and superior government called the Zionist government. In a press conference shared with Perez, 'Arafat spoke of an independent Palestinian government and the capital of Jerusalem. He called this his sweet dream. Then after that Perez said, we do not prevent the discussion of happy dreams or visions and 'Arafat has the right to speak of his sweet dreams, but in the domain of reality we do not permit discussion of the government of Palestine. This is not something our agreement has created. Then he emphasized that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel.

[ETTELA'AT] It is no secret that Israel and its supporters have a monopoly on all the economic, political, military and propaganda tools. What resources does HAMAS have?

[Hamadan] The occupying regime has all the military and political resources to continue its oppressive occupation, but we also have power, and that is our very truth and natural rights, which help us to continue the resistance. Whoever studies history sees that in the end the Truth is victorious. During the era of the Crusades, history saw the occupation of our land, and this is considered one of the worst periods in Palestine, but this did not last, and after 100 years the occupiers were defeated and extensive changes took place.

On the other hand, Palestine is not just the property of the nation of Palestine, it is the property of one billion Muslims whose Prophet has walked and prayed there. In the end, the Zionists cannot fight the power and resources of one billion Muslims. Our struggle is a struggle between two civilizations; one is built on truth, the other on falsehood. We are in the right. No matter how much power the occupying government has, it still has weaknesses. America in Vietnam is a prominent example that with all its power, it was obliged to withdraw from Vietnam and ultimately it was forced to admit its mistakes in occupying and fighting with Vietnam. In my view, the Zionists will also come to this point because the will to fight in the nation of Palestine is alive and well established.

The nation of Palestine is weak now, but through its internal will to fight, it is strong. In our view, everything that has happened through agreements and talks, such as the Oslo Accord, was for the purpose of destroying the will of the nation of Palestine and creating misgivings concerning the autonomous government of Palestine. We therefore say that no matter how strong the occupying government may be, it is not stronger than a nation's will to fight.

[ETTELA'AT] Now, however, we are seeing widespread detentions of HAMAS members. The continuation of this will have undesirable results for HAMAS.

[Hamadan] This is the policy of the occupiers: either to defeat, arrest, or banish. It is possible that 100 persons may be arrested or a number of people may be martyred, but these measures will not weaken the will of the nation of Palestine. The more extensive the policy to arrest and martyr our forces, the more intense will become the resistance. Arrests and martyrdom are not the end of the resistance. Rather, they make stronger and firmer the choices by our nation to continue the resistance. Yitzhak Rabin banished from Palestine 400 people from this nation's forces, but he got the opposite result, and in effect the intifadah became more intense. So far, more than one-quarter of the population of Palestine has gone to the Zionist prisons and been released, but the nation of Palestine's will to resist has never been broken or overthrown.

[ETTELA'AT] In the past, the Soviet Union was said to be the cause of the anti-Zionist struggles, and today, when there is no sign of the Soviet Union, Western propaganda attributes the roots of the struggles by the people of Palestine to Iran. What is your view concerning this, and, assuming that Iran were to take a neutral and impartial position on the Palestine issue, where would that take the HAMAS struggle?

[Hamadan] It is true that in the past some of the Palestinian organizations had a relationship with the Soviet Union, but now Western propaganda declaring

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the struggles to be dependent on Iran is aimed at hiding the principle of the occupation. Instead of seeing the primary factor in the struggle as the occupation, they try to attribute the origins of this struggle to some other place. They do not want to open their eyes to the truth that the existing struggles and fighting arise from the existence of the occupation. In truth, what exists in the name of the resistance arises in general from the nation of Palestine and from within the occupied lands. The West always wants everyone to accept its views, but it cannot tolerate the opinions and views of others. They must realize that the cause of the confusion and the instability of peace in the region is the existence of Israel.

Iran merely confirms the right of the nation of Palestine. The West wants to deny the origin of the resistance within Palestine. HAMAS formed in the heart of the nation of Palestine and within the land of Palestine, not outside of Palestine. The West must put aside the imaginary factors and see the primary factor behind the resistance. The people in the West must convince their governments not to cultivate enemies and to open its eyes to the realities. Neither Islam nor the Muslims are enemies of the West. Apart from the positions by every government and every nation towards the nation of Palestine, they must realize that the resistance will remain and continue as long as our land remains occupied. If the origin of the problem is not solved, its side effects will remain.

[ETTELA'AT] As the final question, how do you assess the effect of the position taken by the Shame of the Sheikhs Conference and its results on the HAMAS Organization?

[Hamadan] The holding of this conference shows the emergence of a kind of confusion between the Zionist regime and its supporters. If they want to fight terrorism, they should study Zionist state terrorism because the mother of terrorism in the region is Israel. They must ask themselves why there is resistance to the occupation and why their nations have fought occupation at various times in history. If they want to welcome the occupiers, why must they do this in Palestine? It would be better for them to bring occupation and the occupiers to their own countries. That person who wants to adhere to logic must speak to nations with logic. How is it possible in one place to speak of the right of nations to freedom, and elsewhere to attribute truth and rights to occupation and occupiers? In my view, the goals of this conference go no further than the coming elections in America or Israel, and its taking place is to be assessed in this direction.

Iran: President Rafsanjani Receives Laotian Foreign Minister

LD0907120196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat.

The foreign minister said that the people of Iran and Laos have a common history of campaign against colonialism and despotism and internal and foreign enemies. We are confident that we can use Iran's valuable experiences during the reconstruction period in Laos and toward strengthening and deepening bilateral relations.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the bright history of the people's struggle in the southeastern region of Asia, especially Laos, against the colonialists. He said: The history of these struggles was attractive and interesting to the people of Iran, especially during the campaign against the despotic monarchy and against the United States. We fully understand the value of the long history of struggles by the Laotian people and the problems facing the country during its reconstruction.

Referring to many common political stances that the two countries adopt at international arena, the president said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has gained valuable experiences during the reconstruction of the country and it can put these experiences at the disposal of Laos and in return make use of that country's experiences.

President Rafsanjani also emphasized the need for closer cooperation between the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and ASEAN, and called for better use to be made of the potentials offered by the member states of the two organizations.

The Laotian foreign minister also met last night with our country's foreign minister and talked about relations between the two countries.

Iran: Velayati, Laotian Foreign Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD0807204996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mutual ties and regional and international relations were discussed at a meeting between the Laotian foreign minister and Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati in Tehran today.

Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat [name and title as heard] praised our country for its successes in the oil, gas, and communications industries, in the

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construction of roads, bridges, and railways and for making fast progress in telecommunications, technology, and agriculture. He asked Iran to help his country in the implementation of his country's infrastructural projects.

Velayati said: With its common borders with 15 countries Iran is prepared to put facilities at the disposal of Laos toward the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

He also declared Iran's preparedness to train Laotian political analysts and give grants to Laotian students, saying it will be beneficial in strengthening relations between the two countries.

Iran: Hashemi—Regional Strategy Without Iran 'Unworkable'

LD0807192896 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, May 13, IRNA — Vice-president in executive affairs, Mohammad Hashemi, said the reconstruction efforts accomplished in recent years through the relentless endeavors of President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the government under the full support of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, has given the sublime ideal of the late Imam Khomeyni, who introduced Islam as a comprehensive religion capable of governing the affairs of society an expression of reality.

He made the statement at the question-answer session with reporters and editors of the Islamic Republic News Agency and the Persian daily IRAN on Monday. [8 July]

The vice-president said that after various abortive attempts of subversive activities, military coup d'etats, direct invasions, Iraqi eight-year imposed war, economic sanctions and other numerous plots, the enemies conceived that with the passing of Imam Khomeyni, the Islamic revolution would collapse under economic pressures and cultural encroachment.

However, the efforts of the government backed by the prudence of the paramount leader of the Islamic revolution thwarted the plots of economic sanctions and cultural onslaught of the imperialists, as was the case with the political and military conspiracy of the enemy in time of the late Imam Khomeyni.

Hashemi said the frequency and volume of the news items being presented by foreign mass media has been considerably high during the recent months, which, in fact, clearly indicates that the enemy's economic sabotage, internal and external plots have been futile. He stated that by having full trust in almighty lord's grace and an unsparing support of the Iranian nation, Iran is the most powerful country in the Persian Gulf and the best in the Middle East, finally stressing that no stategic decision making in the region without direct involvement of Iran is workable.

Iran: Daily Urges Arabs To Reciprocate Tehran's 'Goodwill'

LD0907095396 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Tuesday [9 July] called on Arab nations to respond positively to Tehran's goodwill gestures and promote their good neighborly relations with Tehran.

Commenting on the recent statements made by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressing good neighborly relations with all neighbors, the editorial said Iran's goodwill was hardly reciprocated by her Arab neighbors.

"They have never missed an opportunity to blame Iran for any type of unrest in their countries," it said adding that regional countries including Eypgt, Algeria, and recently Bahrain openly blamed Tehran for their domestic and largely self-inflicted troubles.

The paper criticized President Husni Mubarak of Egypt for repeating, like a parrot, allegations made in Washington, and also the recent implicit allegations by Saudi ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar Bin Sultan who did not rule out Iran as a possible culprit in the two bomb attacks in Saudi Arabia that killed 24 Americans.

The editorial remarked that Washington officially made it clear after the June 25 attack that no evidence whatsoever was found to prove Iran's link to the blast.

"After giving due consideration to what has been said on the subject in the Western media one comes to the conclusion that Bandar is not telling the truth," it said, adding the truth is that the Saudis are strongly opposed to the U.S. military presence in their country.

The paper assured that Bandar is well aware that no foreign hands are involved in the bombing saying, "the two blasts ... are looked up by U.S. officials as a clear demonstration of hatred of the Americans by the Saudis."

Urging Arab leaders to pay more attention to the prevailing situation in their countries, the paper called on them to learn to respect the sentiments of their people.

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"Be it Bahrain, Egypt or Saudi Arabia, the problems will not disappear by pointing fingers at Iran," concluded the daily.

Iran: Tehran Exports $1 Million Worth of Petrochemicals Daily

LD0907095796 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Iran exported more than one million dollars worth of petrochemical products a day during the past three and a half months (March 20-July 6), said a national Iranian petrochemical industries company official.

In an interview with the Persian daily 'IRAN' on Tuesday, [9 July] director for planning of the company Mansur Moazami said the value of the exports exceeded dlrs.[dollars] 116 million over the said period.

The exports weighing 736,000 tons comprised polyvinyl chloride (p.v.c.), magnetocardiograph (m.c.g), liquified petroleum gas (l.p.g.), sulphur and benzene.

He added that over the period 618,000 tons of petrochemical products, worth rls.[rials] 460,000 million, were sold inside the country. This shows an increase of 27 percent compared to the same period last year.

He said that 2,890,000 tons of petrochemical products were produced in the country over the period, six percent higher than the projected output. The amount also shows an increase of 18 percent compared to the same period last year.

The rise is the result of the increase in the number of petrochemical units operating in the country, Moazami concluded.

Iran: Imam Urges Discovery of Islamic Roots in Friday Prayers

LD0807202596 Tehran AKHBAR in Persian 6 Jul 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Esfahan Friday Imam Warns of Threat of Repetition of Events of Early Days of Islam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esfahan — The unifying and enemy-crushing Friday [5 July] prayers were held in Esfahan yesterday, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemenin Shaykh 'Abbas 'Ali Ruhani, the temporary Friday imam of Esfahan, at the Imam Mosque in the glorious presence of masses of God-seeking people.

In his first sermon the temporary Friday imam of Esfahan referred to parts of the history of Islam. He said: The lessons we have learned from Islam should be an example for us today. We should consider the sequence of events that led to the burning of the house of the great Prophet, peace and God's mercy be upon him and his clan, after his death, and where the Islamic society ended up so that a few decades later they gathered in Karbala and killed and beheaded his close relatives.

He referred to the importance of discovering the historical roots of Islamic events. He said: Today, if we wish to learn about the Islamic revolution and the lessons the great imam [Khomeyni] taught us, we should consider how the Muslims were cheated in the past so that such incidents, the factionalism, and the self-interest seekings do not replace God-seeking, and we do not oppose each other and preserve Islamic unity, which is the essence of the victory of the revolution.

He said: Beware lest selfishness, ambition, power-seeking, and opportunism divide us and make us stand against one another.

He also referred to the events in Afghanistan. He said: Those events separate hearts and destroy values, and have resulted in brother opposing brother.

In his second sermon he said: Islam supports quantity and a society with quality. Islam has called for the number of Muslims to increase, but with quality. For a diseased and uncultured population, lacking scientific, ethical, and moral virtues, is no good to Islam. Islam wants a flourishing and blossoming society, a society with science, morals, joy, and activity. Because idleness is the root of corruption, and we should look at the rate of growth of unemployment today to see that.

Iran: Majles Deputy Calls Islamic Values Key to Nation's Success

LD0907102196 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Majles deputy from Tehran Mohammad Reza Bahonar said that all achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran are because of the emphasis laid on Islamic values.

In an interview with the english daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' on Tuesday, [9 July] he stressed that such values should not be ignored for the sake of materialistic goals in order to attain progress.

He said that despite existence of different groups, tastes and varying views, the confrontation of ideas should be in a thoroughly friendly atmosphere.

If some ill-feelings have been created during the Majles elections, the deputies should try to get over with them and not worsen them, he stressed.

Turning to islamization of universities, he said that the efforts made by the officials should not be ignored.

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He added that the dominant atmosphere in universities preserve values and respect religion. However, in the course of subjects related to humanities, these institutions have not been cleared of liberal, materialistic thought and Western culture.

Bahonar concluded that all university text books as well as communication facilities should be reformed and religious, dedicated and persons holding the qualities of the bizollah should be in charge and the move towards establishing Islamic values should be given serious consideration.

Iran: IRIB Head—Promotion of Islamic Values To Beat West's Assault

LD0907104196 Tehran IRNA in English 0712 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA — Dissemination of Islamic values in Iranian society is the best way to beat the Western cultural assault, head of the Iranian radio and television, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), 'Ali Larijani said.

In an interview with the English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Tuesday, [9 July] he stressed that in recent years the West has spared no effort to tarnish Islamic culture.

Elaborating on IRIB's measures to counter Western cultural assault, he stated that the IRIB makes it a point to preserve the rich Islamic culture and civilization, saying it has urged film producers to take the cultural aspect of the Islamic revolution into account in their works.

Producing programs reflecting Islamic culture and civilization can act as a barrier against Western cultural inroads. However, this task requires relentless efforts on the part of the country's Islamic scholars and painstaking research in culture related issues, he said.

Iran: Yazdi—New Penal Law Provides for Tougher Punishments

LD0807193896 Tehran IRNA in English 1913 GMT 8 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA — Head of Iran's judiciary Ayatollah Yazdi told justices here today that stealing and robbery would be punishable more seriously than before according to a new Islamic penal law [words indistinct]. He said the new Islamic penal law having been enforced already for an interim period had proved its merits and pitfalls and that all in all it was a "most progressive body of laws". Ayatollah Yazdi said confirmed persistent robbers and thieves would have to be dealt with more seriously than before. He added that a robber or thief found guilty of robbery or theft for a fourth time would not be entitled to leave nor to pardon when he is serving his sentence.

The head of the judiciary said because of the inherent gravity of the offence of theft and robbery it was necessary that the sentence of those offenders never be commuted for any reason. Elsewhere in his address to justices he deplored the past injustices to the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the blocking of justice to war criminals.

He referred to the discovery of mass graves in Bosnia-Herzegovina saying that western trumpeteers of the so-called human rights still continued to side with war criminals in Bosnia-Herzegovina and prevented them from being brought to justice at the international court. He addressed himself to lovers of human dignity worldwide calling on them to ensure punishment of confirmed war criminals.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: Visiting Indian Delegation Agrees To Liberalize Trade

BK0607160696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India today agreed to liberalize trade with Nepal to give easy access to its products into Indian markets. The two countries held wide-ranging official-level talks on trade and investment during the last two days in Kathmandu.

The commerce secretary, Mr. Tejinder Khanna, who led the Indian delegation at the talks told newsmen that Nepalese products will have zero duty access into Indian markets with proper safeguards to check dumping of third country goods. AIR Kathmandu correspondent says agreed minutes to this effect was signed this afternoon but the new arrangement will come into force after formal approval at the ministerial-level.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Government 'Reservations' on Extradition Treaty With U.S.

BK1007065296 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Jul 96 p 12

[Report by Ansar Abbasi in Islamabad]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government has some reservations about the contents of the extradition treaty proposed by the US and it is consider in to send a high level delegation to Washington to negotiate the matter with the authorities there. The Interior Division has sent

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a proposal to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto seeking her approval for the visit. In case the prime minister grants her approval, the senior official of the Interior Division, Law Ministry and Foreign Office will visit the US during this month for negotiations and to ascertain to what extent the things can go in favour of Pakistan.

"We may be ready to sign a new extradition treaty with the US, but can never sign the treaty as proposed by Washington," an official source said, and added, "we shall not accept any provision that is repugnant to Pakistani laws." Recently, Washington has formally requested Islamabad for signing a new extradition treaty between the two countries with much wider scope regarding the extradition of persons desired. The document handed over to the government of Pakistan includes the draft of the proposed extradition treaty, which the US government intends to sign with Pakistan.

Following high level inter-ministerial consultations, involving Interior Division, Law Ministry and Foreign Office, certain flaws in the proposed extradition treaty were noted down. Some of these flaws the sources said, are repugnant to the Pakistani laws and can not be acceptable to Pakistan.

"We believe that the draft treaty was not vetted by any legal expert in the US Government," a source in the Foreign Office told THE NEWS. When asked whether Pakistan will agree to the US proposal, he responded, "Rest assure that we will not sign the treaty blindly reconciling the national interest."

About government's reservations, the sources said, the US wants the inclusion of all those offenses which provide for one-year sentence or more no matter what does the Extradition Act of Pakistan says. The sources said, although the Extradition Act has this provision, but it is subject to the schedule of offenses included in the Act. The proposed treaty also envisages a provision under which it will be binding on the contracting countries not to execute death penalty to any person extradited. This provision is included only to ensue that a person extradited from US to Pakistan should not be given death penalty as this Punishment is not included in the US law.

The Ministry of Law has rejected certain provisions of the proposed draft, which were not found in conformity with the Pakistani law. A source in the Ministry of Law said, "It seems that the US wants to sign a treaty which should not be subject to the law of the contracting countries."

Pakistan: Wives of American Hostages in Kashmir Issue Statement

BK1007025196 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mrs. Jane Schelly Hutchings and Julie Mangan, the wives of the two American citizens reportedly kidnapped and detained in India-held Kashmir, have made a fervent public appeal for the release of their husbands.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the two ladies informed that their husbands were kidnapped a year ago in held-Kashmir and ever since there is no news about them. The wives of the kidnapped Americans said we have come to Pakistan on our behalf as well as on behalf of other two foreigners who were also kidnapped with their husbands. [sentence as heard] Mrs. Jane Schelly stressed that Islam is a religion of peace and love and every Muslim whom they met has already condemned the act of kidnapping in strong words. She greatly appreciated the efforts and assistance provided by Government of Pakistan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for the release of kidnapped foreigners.

[Begin Schelly recording] We are here to seek the release of our husbands and those who are held with them. We, four wives, have begged for help from all of the governments involved. [end recording]

Pakistan: PTV Reports Kashmir 'Crippling' Protest Marks Gowda Visit

BK0607134996 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, a crippling protest strike was observed against the visit of the Indian prime minister, H.D. Deve Gowda in Srinagar today. The call for strike was given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. Due to the strike, life remained paralyzed with all shopping centers, business establishments, government and semi-government offices, schools, colleges, banks, and courts remaining closed. Vehicular traffic also remained off the road. It was the first ever visit to Srinagar by an Indian prime minister in the past nine years. There are also reports of protest demonstrations in various towns against the visit of the Indian prime minister, which is meant to prepare the ground for Kashmir legislative assembly elections. A spokesman of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, said we will oppose the state assembly elections by all methods. Hundreds of police and paramilitary troops were put on alert to prevent violence during the day-long visit, which precedes an all-party meeting in Delhi to discuss prospects of holding state assembly polls in Kashmir.

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Meanwhile, Indian troops continued siege and search operations in Srinagar and other towns. Several people were relentlessly beaten and many taken into custody. Troops used brute force to disperse the demonstrators in Srinagar who were protesting against the screening of an objectionable serial by Indian television. A fierce clash took place between troops and mujahidin in Zalpura area of Badgam District in which three soldiers were killed. A mujahid was martyred in the action. Thousands of people attended the funeral of martyred mujahid raising anti-India and pro-liberation slogans.

Pakistan: Radio—Kashmir Leaders Reject Election Plan

BK0707092596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Indian occupied Kashmir, leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference have categorically denounced the Indian prime minister proposition to hold legislative assembly elections in the occupied territory. The chief of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Omar Farooq, said the people have no interest in the polls for the sake of constituting a government. He said the people of Kashmir will continue their struggle to achieve their right of self-determination. He said they want the intervention of the United Nations to solve the Kashmir dispute. Another Kashmiri leader, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, refuted New Delhi's claim that the state was ready for elections. He said the Indian Government should understand that they are not for elections. They want the right of self-determination to choose their own future.

Pakistan: Foreign Ministry Sees Hekmatyar's Appointment as Positive

LD0507184896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 5 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman regards the appointment of Golboddin Hekmatyar as the prime minister of Afghanistan as a positive step for the restoration of peace in this country. Our correspondent reports from Islamabad that the spokesman said in his weekly briefing on Thursday [4 July] that Pakistan is trying to normalize its relations with the government in Kabul and is hoping to see peace restored in war-torn Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Regarding the opening of the Pakistan embassy in Kabul the spokesman said that Islamabad is in contact with the Kabul government on this issue. [passage omitted]

Pakistan: Minister Alleges Attempts To 'Subvert' Constitution

BK0907142696 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 9 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minister of state for law and justice, Mr. Raza Rabbani, told the Senate today that some elements representing vested interests are trying to subvert the constitution and create a constitutional crisis. But, he said, the people of Pakistan will foil their attempts. Responding to points of order by deputy opposition leader, Raja Mohammad Zaffarul Haq, and Mr. Tariq Chowdhury, he said these elements are creating an impression of polarization between the pillars of the state, which is in fact a figment of their imagination. He said these people want to reimpose the presidential form of government in the country which has been rejected by the people of Pakistan. The minister of state for law reiterated there is no constitutional crisis in the country and all constitutional institutions are functioning smoothly on the principle of dichotomy of powers provided in the 1973 Constitution. He said the Pakistan People's Party has a long history of struggle for the supremacy of the constitution and has exhibited great respect for the judiciary as an important organ of the state. He pointed out it was the opposition which undermined the image of the judiciary by making their decision controversial.

Raja Mohammad Zaffarul Haq contended the government is violating the constitution by showing hesitation to implement the decisions of the superior judiciary.

The house held inconclusive debate on an adjournment motion regarding the incident of firing by law enforcing agencies on a procession in Rawalpindi on 24 June. Taking part in the debate, the federal minister for social welfare and special education, Dr. Sher Afghan, said Jammat-i-Islami is making extra-constitutional demand which tantamount to conspiracies against the state and the constitution. Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi, Sardar Bashir Ahmed Tarin, Mr. Shahzad Gul, Hafiz Fazal Mohammad, Dr. Abdul Hai Balochj, and Miss Fiza Junejo also took part in the debate. The house will now meet tomorrow morning.

Pakistan: President, Bhutto Briefed on Security Matters

BK1007012096 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 9 Jul 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by THE NEWS defense correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The country's top leadership Monday [8 July] held a marathon round of talks with the services chiefs for evolving consensus

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on security matters and meeting challenges confronting the nation. 'Nothing has been finalized, as conclusions of the exercise will be drawn later,' said a participant of the study period held at the Joint Staff Headquarters, here Monday.

President Farooq Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Defence Minister Shaban Mirani, Foreign Minister Aseff Ahmed Ali Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, Army Chief General Jehangir Karamat, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak, Naval Chief Admiral Mansurul Haq, secretaries Defense and Foreign Office and some other high-ranking civil and military officials participated in the session.

Informed circles said it was the most important session and a rare occasion during which the emerging geo-political scenario on the global, regional developments and its direct or indirect impact on Pakistan came under discussion. 'You can say Pakistan's future policy in the region and at the international level on all key issues will be based on these discussions,' they added. However, for the defense minister it was not 'an extraordinary event.' 'No comment' was his reply when asked about the purpose of holding the seminar.

Kashmir being the core issue in South Asia, said a source, was the focal point of these consultations preceded by presentations of different viewpoints and studies conducted by each discipline. The president and prime minister, according to the source, also spelled out the vision they have for Pakistan and the role it will have to play by the turn of the century.

In the regional context, the change of government in India, Golboddin Hekmatyar's joining the Rabbani administration, a more lethal campaign by US to pursue its policy of nuclear-free South Asia, were some of the points around which the talks were focused. The requirements of armed forces, said the source, keeping in view the financial constraints also figured out in talks, with everybody agreeing to the notion that Mirage 2000-5 will he too expensive for a country like ours.

'Pakistan may give a fresh bid for the Su-27, and for that purpose efforts have been started as the prime minister is scheduled to go to Moscow to secure political clearance from President Boris Yeltsin in this regard,' added the sources.

Pakistan: Political Alliance Formed To Force 'Mid-Term Elections'

BK0807142496 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 8 Jul 96 p 12

[Report by Javed Jaidi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Four political parties — Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani group), Tehrik-e-Jafferia Pakistan, Awami National Party and Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz group), formed an alliance on Sunday [7 July] to compel the government to hold mid-term elections this year.

The decision for the formation of the alliance was taken in a meeting of the heads of all four component parties, including Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, Senator Ajmal Khattak and Maulana Syed Sajid Afi Naqvi. A review committee, comprised eight members (two from each party), was also formed in the meeting.

The announcement about the alliance was made public at a joint press conference here on Sunday which was addressed by the leaders of the component parties.

The leaders of the four parties were of the view that the ouster of the government has become inevitable for the survival of country and the welfare of the masses. They said, it was the responsibility of all the patriots to work for the ouster of the government. The chief of his own faction of Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan. Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, told newsmen that the newly-formed alliance will campaign for mid-term elections this year.

He said the alliance will not accept elections under the supervision of the ruling PDF [Pakistan Democratic Front] government. He said since impartial elections were not possible under the PDF government, a neutral interim set-up should be formed at the earliest to hold free, fair and impartial elections in the country.

Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani said, the government has no constitutional or ethical justification to stay in office any longer. He also voiced for completion of accountability process under articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution. He said a judicial commission should be formed immediately for the purpose.

The chief of the Tehrik-e-Jafferia Pakistan, Allama Sajid Naqvi, while addressing the newsmen said the proposed elections should be held under the neutral interim government.

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